

Longman

Dictionary of

English
Language
and Culture

with colour illustrations

- [A] attributive: an adjective that is used only before the noun that it describes: a **main** road | an **indoor** swimming pool
- [C] countable: a noun that can be counted and has a plural form: *This is a **dictionary**.* | *There are many **dictionaries** in the library.*
- [F] an adjective that is used only following the noun that it describes, usually after **be** or another verb marked [L]: *The children are **asleep**.*
- [I] intransitive: a verb that has no direct object: *They all **came** yesterday.* | *We **set off** at 7 o'clock.*
- [L] a verb that is followed by a noun or adjective complement, which refers to the subject of the verb. **Be** is the most common [L] verb but there are several others: *Jane **is** a doctor.* | *Her dress **was** blue.* | *He **became** President.* | *You **look** very tired.*
- [P] plural: a noun that is used only with a plural verb or pronoun, and that has no singular form: *These **trousers** are too tight.*
- [S] singular: a noun that is used only in the singular, and that has no plural form: *There was a **babble** of voices.* | *Let me have a **think** about it.*
- [T] transitive: a verb that is followed by a direct object, which can be either a noun phrase or a clause: *She **rides** a bicycle to school.* | *He **made up** a good excuse.* | *We **decided** to leave.* | *I've **given up** eating meat.*
- [U] uncountable: a noun that cannot be counted, and that has no plural form: *We drink **milk** with our dinner.* | *There isn't much **milk** left.* | *The book contained some interesting **information** about the town.*
- [the] a noun that is the name of an actual place, organization, etc., and that is always used with the definite article: *the **White House*** | *This land belongs to the **Crown**.*
- [after n] shows that an adjective, adverb, or noun can follow a noun: *a piece of wood three inches **thick*** | *the director **designate***
- [no comp.] shows that an adjective or adverb is not used in the comparative or superlative form (with **-er/-est**, or **more/most**): a **nuclear** weapon | a **main** road
- [+to-v] shows that a word can be followed by an infinitive verb with **to**: *I **want** to leave early today.* | *an **attempt** to reach an agreement* | *We're **ready** to go.*

- [+to-v] shows that a verb can be followed by an infinitive verb without **to**: *You **must** tell the police about this.* | *I **saw** him leave early today.*
- [+v-ing] shows that a verb can be followed by another verb in the **-ing** form: *I **like** playing football.* | *We **watched** them playing football.*
- [+that] shows that a word can be followed by a clause beginning with **that**: *He **read** that oil prices were going down.*
- [+(that)] shows that a word can be followed by a clause beginning with **that**, but the word **that** can be left out: *He **knew** he would be late for work.* | *I'm **sorry** you failed your exam.*
- [+wh-] shows that a word can be followed by a word beginning with **wh-** (such as **where**, **why**, or **when**) or by **how**: *He didn't **know** what to do* | *how to do it* | *where to find her.* | *the **reason** why I was so late* | *I'm not **sure** where to go.*
- [+v-ed] shows that a verb can be followed by a past participle: *She **got** trapped.* | *We're **having** the car repaired.*
- [+adv|prep] shows that a word (esp. a verb) can be followed by an adverbial or prepositional phrase: *She **lives** abroad.* | *She **lives** in the next street.* | ***Put** it away.* | ***Put** it in the box.* | *We could see **far** into the distance.*
- [+obj(i)+obj(d)] shows that a verb can be followed by an indirect object and then a direct object: ***Give** the teacher your book.* | *Let me **buy** you a drink.*
- [obj] shows that the direct object of a [T] verb can only be a clause and cannot be a noun or pronoun: [T + that; ~~obj~~] *The court **determined** that the man was guilty of assault.*
- [not in progressive forms] shows that a verb is not used in the progressive aspect (i.e. not following the verb **be** in an **-ing** form): *I **hate** football.* (NOT *I am **hating** football.*) | *She **knows** him quite well.*
- [+ sing./pl.v] shows that a noun represents a group. In the singular it can be followed either by a singular verb or (especially in British English) by a plural verb: *The football **team** **is** are playing tonight.*

Pronunciation table

Consonants

symbol	key word
b	back
d	day
ð	then
dʒ	jump
f	fat
g	get
h	hot
j	yet
k	key
l	led
m	sum
n	sun
ŋ	sung
p	pen
r	red
s	soon
ʃ	fishing
t	tea
tʃ	cheer
θ	thing
v	view
w	wet
x	loch
z	zero
ʒ	pleasure

Vowels

symbol	key word
i:	sheep
ɪ	ship
i	happy
e	bed
æ	bad
ɑ:	calm
ɒ	pot
ɔ:	caught
ʊ	put
u	actuality
u:	boot
ʌ	cut
ɜ:	bird
ə	cupboard
eɪ	make
oʊ	note
aɪ	bite
aʊ	now
ɔɪ	boy
ɪə	here
iə	peculiar
ee	there
eu	poor
eu	ritual
erə	player
evə	lower
air	tire
auə	tower
ɛɪ	employer

Special signs

- || separates British and American pronunciations: British on the left, American on the right
- /' shows main stress
- /,/ shows secondary stress
- /◄/ shows stress shift
- /r/ at the end of a word means that /r/ is usually pronounced in American English and is pronounced in British English when the next word begins with a vowel sound
- /ɹ/ means that some speakers use /r/ and others use /ɹ/
- /v/ means that some speakers use /v/ and others use /ɹ/
- /ə/ means that /ə/ may or may not be used

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Longman Dictionary of English Language and Culture



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This Dictionary has been produced to help students of English understand the words and phrases that make up the complex fabric of English-speaking life and culture.

The full text of the *Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English* is the basis for the book, but we have included a further 15,000 people, places, events, and institutions in order to provide advanced learners of English with a full reference resource in one book.

This is because we believe that when students come across references to *Rodeo Drive*, *triffids*, *Reuters*, *PSBR*, the *Teamsters' Union* or *Clarence Darrow* in their reading, they should be able to look them up in their dictionary just as they would other, more general language words.

The range of words and phrases included here should help students extend the breadth of their understanding of English, but information is also provided to increase the depth of their understanding.

The *connotations* of some of the items entered here, many of them for the first time in a reference book, are often essential to the full understanding of a passage. For example, what associations do native-speakers of English naturally have with items such as *Rolls Royce* or the *National Enquirer*? It is surely necessary to understand the reputation for high quality associated with the name *Rolls Royce* in order to understand a sentence like *Our company provides a Rolls Royce service*, and so this information is clearly stated in the definition.

The lexicographic work that has gone into the creation of this book is based on the analysis of authentic language as found in the many books and newspapers from Britain and America included in the Longman Corpus Network, an extensive resource of computerized language data collected over many years at Longman. The use of this data in our dictionaries ensures that the content is both up-to-date and accurate.

We very much hope that the understanding of language by advanced learners of English will be greatly enhanced by the use of the new Longman Dictionary of English Language and Culture.

Della Summers
Editorial Director

a-board /ə'bo:rd||-ɔ:rd/ *adv, prep* on or into (a ship, train, aircraft, bus, etc.): *The boat is ready to leave. All aboard!* | *The plane crashed, killing all 200 people aboard.* — compare **on board** (BOARD¹)

British and American pronunciations:
page F30

an-ti-bi-ot-ic /,æntɪbaɪ'ɒtɪk-||-'ɑ: / *n* a medical substance, such as PENICILLIN, that is produced by living things and is able to destroy or stop the growth of harmful bacteria that have entered the body: *a course of antibiotics to clear an infection* — **antibiotic** *adj*

word class (or "part of speech") labels:
page F16

bad-ger¹ /'bædzə / *n* 1 [C] an animal which has black and white fur, lives in holes in the ground, and is active at night 2 [U] the skin or hair of this animal

badger² *v* [T (into)] to (try to) persuade by asking again and again; PESTER: *The children badgered me into taking them to the cinema.* [+obj+to-v] *They kept badgering him to get a home computer.*

words with the same spelling but different
use or meaning: page F10

Ad-ams /'ædəmz/ , **An-sel** /'ænsəl/ (1902–84) an American photographer known esp. for his photographs of the scenery of the West of the US

Adams, John (1735–1826) the second president of the US and an influential political leader of the movement towards independence from the British

people with the same name: page F11

blot-ter /'blɒtə / *n* 1 a large piece of blotting paper against which writing paper can be pressed to dry the ink 2 *AmE* a book where records are written every day, before the information is stored elsewhere (often in the phrase **police blotter**)

words having more than one meaning: page
F13

clam-our¹ *BrE* || **clamor** *AmE* /'klæmə / *n* 1 [S] a loud continuous, usu. confused noise or shouting: *a clamour of voices/of bells*

spelling variation: page F11

cri-te-ri-on /kraɪ'tɪəriən/ *n* -ria /rɪə/ *or* -rions an established standard or principle, on which a judgment or decision is based

meanings explained in clear language: page
F14

damage² *v* [T] to cause damage to: *to damage someone's reputation* | *The building was severely damaged by the explosion.* | *Smoking can damage your health.* | *The incident had a damaging effect on East-West relations.*

useful natural example sentences: page F15

birth-day /'bɜ:θdeɪ||'bɜ:r- / *n* 1 a day which is an exact year or number of years after one was born: *my 21st birthday* | *a birthday party* | *Happy birthday to you!* —compare ANNIVERSARY

Cultural Notes: page F27

► **CULTURAL NOTE** People, esp. children, often celebrate their birthdays with a **birthday party** where people play games, sometimes wear special paper hats, eat **birthday cake**, and sing a special song called *Happy Birthday to you*. People are usu. given presents and **birthday cards** on their birthday. ◀

drawing pin /'..- / *BrE* || **thumbtack** *AmE* — *n* a short pin with a broad flat head, used esp. for putting notices on boards or walls —see picture at PIN

British and American word differences: page
F26

dry-clean /,ɪ- / *v* [T] to clean (clothes, material, etc.) with chemicals instead of water

dry cleaner's /,ɪ- / *n* a shop where clothes, curtains, etc., can be taken to be dry-cleaned

dry dock /'..- / *n* a place in which a ship is held in position while the water is pumped out, leaving the ship dry for repairs: *The ship is in dry dock being painted.*

compound words shown as separate entries:
page F10
stress patterns shown for compound words:
page F29

flag² *v* -gg- [T] to put a special mark on (something) so it can be picked out from among others

flag sthg./sbdy. ↔ **down** *phr v* [T] to cause (a vehicle or its driver) to stop by waving at the driver: *I tried to flag down a taxi.*

frying pan /'fɪɪ/ also **skillet** *AmE*— *n* 1 a flat pan with a long handle, used for frying food: *a non-stick frying pan*
2 **out of the frying pan into the fire** out of a bad position into an even worse one —see picture at PAN

fish-er /'fɪʃə/ *n* **I will make you fishers of men** a phrase used in the Bible by Christ, telling his followers, who were fishermen, that they should stop trying to catch fish and instead should try to attract more people to follow him

furtive /'fɜːtɪv/ || 'fɜːr- *adj* quiet and secret; trying to escape notice or hide one's intentions: *She cast a furtive glance down the hotel corridor before leaving her room.* — *ly adv*
— *ness n* [U]

gap /gæp/ *n* [(in, between)] 1 an empty space between two objects or two parts of an object: *The gate was locked but we went through a gap in the fence.*

guarantee² *v* [T] 1 to give a guarantee: *The manufacturers guarantee the watch for three years.* [+ (that)] *They have guaranteed that any faulty parts will be replaced free of charge.* [+to-v] *Our products are guaranteed to last for years.* [+obj+adj] *All our food is guaranteed free of artificial preservatives*

hit man /'hɪt mæn/ *n* *informal, esp. AmE* a criminal who is employed to kill someone

hope-ful-ly /'həʊpfəli/ *adv* 1 in a hopeful way: *The little boy looked at her hopefully as she handed out the sweets.*
2 if our hopes succeed: *Hopefully we'll be there by dinnertime.*

▷ **USAGE** This second meaning of **hopefully** is now very common, especially in speech, but it is thought by some people to be incorrect.◁

frog /frɒg/ || fræ:g, frɔ:g/ *n* 1 a small hairless tailless animal, usu. brownish-green, that lives in water and on land, has long back legs for swimming and jumping, and **CROAKS** (=makes a deep rough sound). People sometimes make jokes about kissing frogs to make them turn into an attractive prince, because this happens in some children's fairy stories. —see also **FROG PRINCE**

in-ci-dent /'ɪnsɪdənt/ *n* 1 an event; a happening, esp. one that is unusual: *one of the strangest incidents in my life* | *We completed the journey without further incident.* (=with nothing unusual happening)

lb *written abbrev. for:* pound (weight)

lbw /,el bɪː 'dʌbəljuː/ *abbrev. for:* leg before wicket (LEG¹)

LCD /,el sɪː 'dɪː/ *n* liquid crystal display; part of an APPARATUS on which numbers, letters, etc. are shown by passing an electric current through a special liquid, so that they light up

mal- see **WORD FORMATION**

out-do /aʊtˈduː/ *v* -**did** /'dɪd/, -**done** /'dʌn/, 3rd person sing. present tense -**does** /'dʌz/ [T] to do or be better than (someone else):

o-vum /'əʊvəm/ *n* **ova** /'əʊvə/ *tech* an egg, esp. one that develops inside the mother's body

phrasal verbs: page F11

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nouns with irregular plurals: page F17

1 Finding words and phrases

All dictionaries follow alphabetical order, but they do not all list words in exactly the same way. For example, in some dictionaries the expression **part of speech** may be listed in the entry for **part**, and in others it may come at **speech**. In this dictionary it has its own separate entry in the main alphabetical list, between **partnership** and **partook**. These main entries are called “headwords”, but not all words and phrases appear as full headwords – you may have to look for them under another headword. In order to use this dictionary effectively, you need to know how the words are listed, and the purpose of this section is to explain exactly where to find the word or phrase you are looking for:

- 1.1 Homographs
- 1.2 Compound words
- 1.3 Plural nouns
- 1.4 Words that start with capital letters
- 1.5 Abbreviations
- 1.6 Prefixes and suffixes
- 1.7 Different spellings
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1.1 Homographs

“Homographs” are words that have the same spelling but are different in some other way. They may have a different pronunciation, they may belong to a different word class (noun, verb, adjective, etc.), or they may be completely different in meaning. Homographs are shown as separate headwords and each one is given a raised number, like this:

flock¹ /flɒk||flɑ:k/ *n* [C+*sing./pl. v*] **1** a group of sheep, goats, or birds –compare **HERD**¹ (1) **2** [+*of*] *infml* a crowd; large number of people: *a flock of tourists* **3** the group of people who regularly attend a church: *The priest warned his flock against breaking God’s law.*

flock² *v* [I+*adv./prep*] to gather or move in large numbers: *People are flocking to the cinema to see the new film.*

flock³ *n* [U] **1** small pieces of wool, cotton, etc., used for filling **CUSHIONS**, etc. **2** soft material that forms decorative patterns on the surface of wallpaper, curtains, etc.

In this example, **flock**¹ and **flock**² are closely related in meaning, but they are shown as separate headwords because they belong to different word classes. And **flock**³ is completely unrelated in meaning to the other two, so it also has a separate entry. The order in which homographs are listed depends on how common they are: the most frequently used words come first.

1.2 Compound words

A “compound word” is a combination of two or more separate words that functions as a single word and has its own special meaning.

hot air /, · ˈ · / *n* [U] *infml derog* meaningless talk or ideas

hot-bed /ˈhɒtbed||ˈhɑ:t-/ *n* [+*of*] a place or condition where the stated undesirable thing can exist and develop: *The city is a hotbed of crime. | a hotbed of intrigue*

hot-blood-ed /, · ˈ · ˌ · / *adj* having strong excitable feelings; **PASSIONATE**

hotch-potch /ˈhɒtʃpɒtʃ||ˈhɑ:tʃpɒtʃ/ *esp. BrE* || *usu. hodge-podge AmE* – *n* [S] a number of things mixed up without any sensible order or arrangement

hot-cross bun /, · ˈ · ˈ · / *n* a small sweet cake made of bread with a cross-shaped mark on top, which is eaten on Good Friday, just before Easter

hot dog /, · ˈ · ˈ · ˈ · / *n* a cooked **FRANKFURTER** or other **SAUSAGE** in a long bread **ROLL**. In the US hot dogs and **HAMBURGERS** are considered to be very American foods and are very popular.

hot flush /, · ˈ · ˈ · / *esp. BrE* || *usu. hot flash AmE* – *n* a sudden feeling of heat in the skin, esp. as experienced by women at the **MENOPAUSE** (=the time when they stop being able to bear children)

In this dictionary, compound words are always treated as separate headwords (not as part of another main headword like **hot**), whether they are written as a single word (like **hotbed**), or as two or three separate words (like **hot air**), or joined by hyphens (like **hot-blooded**).

It is important to distinguish between compound words, which have a fixed form and a special meaning, and groups of words that simply appear together in a particular sentence. Expressions like “a hot day”, “a hot room”, and “hot weather” are not shown as headwords because they are “free” combinations of an adjective and noun. Their form is not fixed, so one could equally say “the day was hot”, “the weather was hot”, and so on. This would not be possible with true compounds like **hot air** and **hot dog**.

1.3 Plural nouns

If a noun is always used in the plural form in one of its meanings, this meaning is shown as a separate headword:

bend² *n* **1** a curved part, esp. in a road or stream: *a bend in the road/river* **2** an act of bending: *forward bends to stretch the spine* **3** *around/round the bend infml, often humor mad*: *This pink wallpaper would drive/send me around/round the bend. | That old man next door must be/have gone round the bend – he’s been cutting the grass with a pair of scissors!*

bends /bendz/ *n* [*the+sing./pl. v*] a painful and occasionally fatal condition caused by gas in the tubes through which blood flows, suffered esp. by deep-sea **DIVERS** who come to the surface too quickly

1.4 Words that start with capital letters

Some words are always written with capital letters, for example if they are the name of a particular place, organization, or event. These words are shown as separate headwords, even if they have the same spelling as another headword:

ref-or-ma-tion /ˌrefəˈmeɪʃən||-fər-/ *n* [C;U] (an) improvement; the act of reforming or state of being reformed: *a complete reformation in his character*

Reformation [the] the religious movement in Europe in the 16th century leading to the establishment of the Protestant churches

Words that begin with capital letters may sometimes have more than one meaning. Each meaning has its own definition number and definition.

Entries for people are always shown as separate headwords, not as different meanings under one headword. They are listed in alphabetical order of the person's first name:

Arm-strong /ˈɑːmstrɒŋ||ˈɑːmstrɔːŋ/, **Lou-is** /ˈluːi/ (1900–71) an American JAZZ musician, singer, and bandleader, known esp. for the rough sound of his voice

Armstrong, Neil /niːl/ (1930–) an American ASTRONAUT who was the first man to step on the moon in 1969. He is remembered for saying “one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind” as he first stepped onto the moon.

1.5 Abbreviations

“Abbreviations” are either shortened forms of words (like **Dr** for **Doctor**) or groups of letters made up from the first letters of the name of something (like **AIDS** for **Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome**). In both cases, they appear as headwords in their own alphabetical place, even if they have the same spelling as another headword:

haz-y /ˈheɪzi/ *adj* 1 misty; rather cloudy: *The mountains were hazy in the distance.* 2 unclear; uncertain: *I'm rather hazy about the details of the arrangement.* —*ily adv* —*iness n* [U]

H-bomb /ˈeɪtʃ bɒm||-bɑːm/ *n* a HYDROGEN BOMB

HCF /ˌeɪtʃ sɪz ˈef/ *abbrev. for:* highest common factor —see FACTOR (2)

he¹ /i, hi; *strong hiː/ pron (used as the subject of a sentence)*

vat /væt/ *n* a very large barrel or other container for holding liquids, such as WHISKY, DYE, etc., esp. when they are being made

VAT /ˌvɪz eɪ ˈtɪz, væt/ *n* [U] value-added tax; (in Britain and many other European countries) a tax added to the price of an article, and paid by the buyer to the seller, who then pays it to the government —compare SALES TAX

Vat-i-can /ˈvætɪkən/ [the] 1 the large palace in which the Pope (=head of the Roman Catholic Church) lives, in Rome: *At last, white smoke could be seen coming from the Vatican chimney.* 2 the government or office of the Pope: *The Vatican is taking a hard line on birth control.*

1.6 Prefixes and suffixes

There is a full list of prefixes and suffixes in the Word Formation section at the back of the dictionary (on page B4). But the most common ones are also shown in the main part of the dictionary with a note directing you to the full list, like this:

vice² *esp. BrE* || **vise** *AmE*— *n* a tool with metal jaws that can be tightened, used for holding something firmly so that it can be worked on with both hands

vice- see WORD FORMATION

vice-chan-cel-lor /ˌvɪːʃənəl/ *n* 1 (often cap. V and C)

1.7 Different spellings

If a word has more than one spelling, the full definition is given at the most common spelling. But there will also be a short headword at the other spelling, directing you to the main entry:

caf-tan, kaftan /ˈkæftæn||kæfˈtæn/ *n* a long loose garment, usu. of cotton or silk, worn in the Near and Middle East.

kaf-tan /ˈkæftæn||kæfˈtæn/ *n* a CAFTAN

1.8 Irregular inflections

“Inflections” are the changes that are made in the form of a word according to the way the word is being used in a sentence. For example, **dog** becomes **dogs** when it is used in the plural, and **carry** becomes **carried** when it is used in the past tense. These are REGULAR inflections because they are formed according to regular rules. Regular inflections are not listed separately in the dictionary. But many words have IRREGULAR inflections, and to help you find the main entry these inflections are shown as separate headwords like this:

bounc-y /ˈbaʊnsi/ *adj* 1 full of life and confidence, and eager for action: *a bouncy person/manner* 2 that bounces well: *a bouncy ball* —*ily adv* —*iness n* [U]

bound¹ /baʊnd/ *past tense & participle of BIND¹: *The prisoner was bound to a stake and shot.**

bound² *adj* 1 [F+to-v] very likely; certain

This means that the full definition of **bound**, when it is used as a verb, can be found at the headword for **bind**.

1.9 Phrasal verbs

A “phrasal verb” (sometimes called a two-part verb) is a fixed expression that consists of a verb followed by an adverb (like **give out**), or a preposition (like **look after**), or sometimes both (like **put up with**). Phrasal verbs have their own special meanings, and these are often quite different from the meaning of the main verb from which they are formed. Phrasal verbs are very common in English.

In this dictionary, phrasal verbs are shown as separate entries in a list following the main verb, like this:

back⁴ *v* 1 [I;T] to (cause to) go backwards: *She backed the car through the gate/into the parking space.*

. 5 [I] *tech* (of the wind) to change direction, moving round the COMPASS in the order North–West–South–East —compare VEER (2) 6 **back the wrong horse** to support the loser

back away also **back off** *AmE*— *phr v* [I (from)] to move away or back because of fear or dislike: *The dog backed away as the man raised his stick.* | (fig.) *The government has backed away from radical reshaping of the tax system.*

back down *phr v* [I (over, on)] to accept defeat in an argument, opinion, or claim; admit that one was wrong: *I saw that she was right, so I had to back down.*

back off *phr v* [I] *AmE* to stop trying to make (someone) to do or think (something): *I saw I was upsetting her so I backed off.* | *Just back off and leave me alone!*

In some cases, there is no simple verb form: that is, the verb is only ever found as part of a phrasal verb. In cases like this, the simple verb form is given, and the phrasal verbs are listed under it, like this:

knuckle² *v*

knuckle down *phr v* [I (to)] to start working hard: *You'll really have to knuckle down if you want to pass the exam.* | *We knuckled down to the job/to finding the answer.*

knuckle under *phr v* [I (to)] to be forced to accept the orders of someone more powerful: *He refused to knuckle under (to any dictatorship).*

It is important to distinguish between true phrasal verbs, which are fixed combinations of verb + adverb/preposition, and other expressions in which verbs freely combine with adverbs or prepositions in a particular sentence. In sentences like:

I ran across the field

She ran into the room

We ran up the hill

the verb **run** is being used with its usual meaning, and is followed by a phrase that begins with a preposition (*across the field, into the room, up the hill*). But the same expressions can also be used as phrasal verbs, and in this case their meaning is very different:

I ran across (= happened to meet) *an old friend today*

She ran into (= began to experience) *a few problems*

We ran up a big bill (= got it as a result of buying things) *at the restaurant*

It is only these SPECIAL meanings that are explained at the definitions for phrasal verbs:

run across sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] to find or meet (esp. someone or something pleasant) by chance: *I ran across an old friend in the street.* —compare **COME across** (1)

For more information about phrasal verbs, see section 3.4 (Grammar and phrasal verbs).

1.10 Idioms, Sayings, and Quotations

An idiom is a fixed phrase that has its own special meaning. It is often impossible to guess the meaning of the whole phrase from the meanings of the separate words that it is formed from. For example, to **kick the bucket** is an idiom meaning “to die” — it has no connection with either kicking or buckets.

How to find idioms

In this dictionary idioms are printed in **dark type** and they are listed in alphabetical order after all the other meanings of a headword, like this:

jump¹ /dʒʌmp/ *v* 1 [I] to push oneself into the air or away from a surface by the force of one's legs; spring: *The children jumped up and down.*

10 **jump a claim** *esp. AmE* to try to claim valuable land which someone else already owns

11 **jump down someone's throat** *infml* to attack someone in words, strongly and unexpectedly, esp. before they have finished talking 12 **jump rope** *AmE* for SKIP¹ (5)

13 **jump the gun** *infml* to take action too soon or before the proper time: *I know he's a suspect, but isn't it jumping the gun a bit to arrest him immediately?* 14 **jump the queue** *BrE* || **cut in line** *AmE* to obtain an unfair advantage over others who have been waiting longer 15

jump to it *infml* to hurry: *You'll have to jump to it if you want to catch the train.*

The dictionary lists idioms at the first MAIN word in the phrase (that is, not at words like **the**, **something**, or **with**), so **kick the bucket** has its definition at **kick**. But if you look for it at **bucket** you will find a note directing you to the right place:

bucket¹ /'bʌkɪt/ *n* 1 an open metal, plastic, or wooden container with a handle for carrying liquids. 2 [(of)] also **bucket-ful** /-fʊl/ — the quantity held by a bucket: *She poured a bucket/two bucketfuls of water over me.* | (fig.) *The rain came down in buckets.* (=it rained very hard) —see also **kick the bucket** (KICK¹ (11)) 3 **a drop in the bucket** a small amount which is not enough: *The money budgeted is a drop in the bucket compared to what is needed.*

There are two exceptions to this rule:

- 1 if the idiom starts with a VERY common verb (such as **have**, **get**, **make**, or **take**) it is shown at the next main word. So **have one's head screwed on** (= to be sensible and practical) is shown at **head**, not at **have**.
- 2 if one of the words in the idiom is variable, the idiom is shown at the main INVARIABLE word. So **take something with a pinch/grain of salt** (= not to believe something) is shown at **salt**, not at **pinch** or **grain**

When a noun is often used to form a suffix, in expressions like **left-handed**, **clear-headed**, or **well-mannered**, this suffix is treated like an idiom, and is shown under the noun as the last idiom in the list:

heart /hɑ:t||hɑ:rt/ *n* 1 [C] the organ inside the chest which controls the flow of blood by pushing it round the body: 19 **to one's heart's content** as much as one wants: *It's the weekend, so you can sleep to your heart's content.* 20 **-hearted** /hɑ:tɪd||hɑ:r-/ having a heart or character of the stated kind: *kind-hearted* | *cold-hearted* (=without kind feelings) | *stout-hearted* (=full of determination)

A saying is a fixed phrase that is usually used in a particular situation to give advice or to state a general truth. Sayings are shown in this dictionary in the same way as idioms, but they are labelled *saying*. The definition tells you what the saying means and in which situations it is used:

life /laɪf/ *n* **lives** /laɪvz/ 1 [U] the active force in animals and plants that makes them different from all other forms of matter, such as stones or machines or dead bodies: (CREMATE) 22 **life begins at forty** *saying* you can start to enjoy life once you are 40 years old

A quotation is a fixed phrase taken from a well known book, play, poem, speech, etc. Quotations are shown in this dictionary in the same way as idioms and sayings, but are labelled *quote*:

death /deθ/ *n* 1 [C;U] the end of life; time or manner of dying: 11 **till death us do part** *BrE* || **till us do us part** *AmE* *quote* a phrase from the Christian marriage service. The two people getting married promise that they will stay together and love each other “till death us do part” (=until one of them dies).

1.11 Derived words without definitions

The dictionary shows all the members of a word family, but they are not always treated as separate headwords. In many cases, related forms are shown under the main entry, like this:

grace-ful /'greɪsfəl/ *adj* **1** attractively and usu. effortlessly fine and smooth; full of grace: *a graceful dancer | her graceful movements* **2** showing a willingness to behave fairly and honourably: *a graceful apology* —see GRACIOUS (USAGE) — **~ly** *adv* — **~ness** *n* [U]

In this case, **gracefully** and **gracefulness** are not given their own separate entries because their meaning can easily be guessed from the base form (**graceful**) and the added endings:

graceful + **-ly** means “in a graceful way”

graceful + **-ness** means “the fact or quality of being graceful”.

Derived forms come at the end of a headword entry, after all the definitions of the main word.

They NEVER have a definition.

They ALWAYS have a word class label (*adv*, *n*, etc.).

They SOMETIMES have a pronunciation and/or a grammar code and/or an example sentence.

af-firm /ə'fɜ:m||-3:rm/ *v fml* **1** [T] to declare (usually again, or in answer to a question or doubt): *The minister affirmed the government's intention to reduce taxes. [+that] She affirmed that she was telling the truth.* —compare DENY (1) **2** [I] to promise to tell the truth in a court of law, but without mentioning God or religion in the promise — **~ation** /,æfə'meɪʃən||,æfər-/ *n* [C;U]

In this case, the pronunciation is given because the pronunciation of the base form (**affirm**) changes when the suffix (**-ation**) is added. The grammar code shows that the derived noun can be either countable or uncountable.

in-ves-ti-gate /ɪn'vestɪgeɪt/ *v* [I;T] to try to find out more information about; examine the reasons for (something), the character of (someone), etc.: *The police are investigating the crime. | He has been investigated and found blameless. | to investigate the causes of cancer* —**-gator** *n* —**-gation** /ɪn'vestɪ'geɪʃən/ *n* [C;U (*into*)] —**-gative** /ɪn'vestɪ'gətɪv||-geɪtɪv/ *adj* : *investigative journalism* (=where newspapers try to find out things of public importance, uncover secrets, etc.)

In this case, an example is given to illustrate a common use of the derived form **investigative**, and there is also an added explanation to make the meaning as clear as possible.

Derived forms can be shown in three different ways:

1 with a wavy line, like this:

grace-ful — **~ness** *n* [U]

In this case, the ending **-ness** is added directly to the base form **graceful**.

2 with a hyphen, like this:

greas-y —**-iness** *n* [U]

In this case, the base form changes slightly before the ending **-ness** can be added (the **y** becomes an **i**). The hyphen means that the derived word is formed by adding the ending shown (**-iness**) to the base word WITHOUT its last syllable. So in this example, the last syllable **-y** is removed from **greasy** and the ending **-iness** is added to it.

3 as a complete word, like this:

ar-chives /'ɑ:kɑrvz||'ɑ:r-/ *n* [P] (a place for storing) historical materials, such as old papers, letters, and reports concerning a government, family, organization, etc., kept esp. for historical interest: *an interesting old news-reel from the BBC archives* —**archive** *adj* [A] : *archive material*

In this example, the derived form is shown in full because it is shorter than the base word. In some cases, the derived form is actually the SAME as the base form, but it is shown (in full) because it belongs to a different word class:

am-e-thyst /'æmθɪst/ *n* [C;U] (the colour of) a purple stone, used in jewellery —**amethyst** *adj*

The adjective form simply means “made of, or having the colour of amethyst”, so it is shown as a derived form without a separate definition.

2 Understanding meaning

There are two ways in which the dictionary can help you to understand the meaning of a word or phrase. The definitions explain the meaning in clear and simple language. And the examples show how the word is normally used. The purpose of this section is to explain all the different kinds of information that the dictionary provides in its definitions and examples. This will help you to use the dictionary effectively as a guide to understanding meaning:

- 2.1 Words with more than one meaning
- 2.2 Definitions
- 2.3 Synonyms
- 2.4 Brackets in definitions
- 2.5 Examples
- 2.6 Figurative examples
- 2.7 Brackets in examples

2.1 Words with more than one meaning

Most words have more than one meaning, and each meaning is given a number, like this:

horse¹ /hɔ:s||hɔ:rs/ *n* **1** [C] a large strong four-legged animal with hard feet (HOoves), which people ride on and use for pulling heavy things: *learning to ride a horse | A male horse is called a stallion, and a female horse is a mare. | We went to see the horse races.* —see BICYCLE (USAGE); see also FOAL, NEIGH **2** [C] an exercise apparatus for jumping over; VAULTING HORSE **3** [P] *old use, esp. BrE* soldiers riding on horses; CAVALRY: *a regiment of horse* **4** [U] *sl for* HEROIN **5** *a horse! a horse! my kingdom for a horse!* *quote* a phrase from Shakespeare's play *Richard III*, said by the King when he needs a horse very badly and now often used humorously when someone needs something badly **6** *a horse of another/a different colour* a completely different thing or situation

The most common or most basic meanings are always shown first. These are followed by other meanings that are less common or more limited in their use: for example, they may be old-fashioned or literary or technical, or they may be used in only one variety of English (such as American English). Finally, if there are any idioms, these are listed in alphabetical order AFTER all the other definitions.

2.2 Definitions

Definitions in simple language

Definitions are the explanations of what words mean. All the definitions in this dictionary are written in clear and simple language, using a small “defining vocabulary” of about 2000 common words. This means that you will have no trouble in understanding even difficult or unfamiliar words, such as:

ped-i-ment /'pedɪmənt/ *n* a three-sided piece of stone or other material placed above the entrance to a building, found esp. in the buildings of ancient Greece

The list of words that are used in the definitions is shown at the back of the dictionary on page B15. Every definition has been computer-checked to make sure that it is written ONLY using words from the list.

The use of words from outside the defining vocabulary

It is sometimes necessary in a definition to refer to a less common word that is not in the 2000-word defining vocabulary. When this happens, the word is written in SMALL CAPITAL LETTERS to show that it does not belong to the special list, like this:

white wed-ding /,wɪt·'wedɪŋ/ *n* esp. BrE a wedding at which the BRIDE (=woman being married) wears a long white dress

This means that **bride** is not one of the 2000 defining words. You may need to check its meaning at its own entry in the dictionary, but you already have some help from the words in brackets (= woman being married) which give a short explanation of what **bride** means.

Sometimes a definition includes a word that has its own definition very close by. If the other definition is no more than three entries away, the word is written in ordinary type, even if it is not in the 2000-word defining vocabulary. For example:

auc-tio-neer /,ɔːkʃə'niə/ *n* a person who is in charge of an auction and who calls out the prices as they are reached

The word “auction” is not on the special list of defining words, but its own definition is only two entries away, so it can be found very easily.

2.3 Synonyms

A synonym is a word that has the same meaning, or almost the same meaning, as another word. In this dictionary, synonyms are usually shown directly after the full definition, like this:

plod /plɒd||plɑːd/ *v* -dd- 1 [I+adv/prep] to walk slowly along, esp. with difficulty and great effort; TRUDGE: *The carthorse plodded along/plodded up the hill pulling the load behind it.* 2 [I+adv/prep, esp. AWAY, ON] to work steadily, esp. at something uninteresting: *She plods away quietly in her corner.* | *I'll plod on (=continue to work) for another hour and then take a break.*

This means that “trudge” is another way of saying “plod”. Sometimes the added synonym at the end of a definition will be a more familiar word than the word you are looking up. If so, it will help you understand the definition better. For example:

rally³ *v* [T (about, on)] *old use* to make fun of (a person) in a friendly way; TEASE: *They rallied him about/on his strange appearance.*

On the other hand, the synonym may be a LESS common word than the one you are looking up, and in this case it will help to increase your vocabulary. For example:

hide¹ /haɪd/ *v* **hid** /hɪd/, **hidden** /'hɪdn/ [(from)] 1 [T] to put or keep out of sight; prevent from being seen or found; CONCEAL: *I hid the broken plate in the drawer.* | *The house was hidden from view by a row of tall trees.*

2.4 Brackets in definitions

Sometimes part of a definition is shown in round brackets, like this:

pal-pi-tate /'pælpɪteɪt/ *v* [I] 1 *med* (of the heart) to beat fast and irregularly 2 [(with)] *fml* (of a person or the body) to tremble: *He was positively palpitating with excitement.*

The definition explains what **palpitate** means, but the part in brackets shows that this word is only used when talking about the heart.

Brackets are used in definitions:

- 1 to give information about how and when a word is normally used
- 2 to show that part of a definition can be either included or left out

Here are some examples:

Information on word use

glau-cous /'glɔːkəs/ *adj* *tech* (of a leaf, fruit, etc.) covered with a fine whitish powdery surface

This means that **glaucous** is normally used to describe things like plants and fruit.

glean /gliːn/ *v* 1 [T] to gather (facts or information) in small amounts and often with difficulty: *From what I was able to glean, it appears they don't intend to take any action yet.* 2 [I;T] to collect (grain that has been left behind) after crops have been cut

This means that the usual object of this verb is “facts” or “information”.

huh /hʌh/ *interj infml* (used for asking a question or for expressing surprise or disapproval): *It's pretty big, huh?*

Words like **huh**, **ouch**, and **shh** are not given proper definitions because they have no real meaning. Instead, they are given a note in brackets that explains the kind of situation in which they are normally used.

Inclusion or exclusion

pars-nip /'pɑːsnɪp||'paɪr-/ *n* [C;U] (a plant with) a thick white or yellowish root that is used as a vegetable

The brackets here are used to show that the first half of the definition can be left out. So **parsnip** can mean EITHER "a type of root that is used as a vegetable" OR "the plant that produces this root".

hur-ry¹ /'hʌri||'hɜːri/ *v* 1 [I;T] to (cause to) be quick in action or movement, sometimes too quick: *There's no need to hurry; we're not late.* | *She hurried across the road to catch the bus.* | *Don't hurry me; I'm working as fast as I can!*

The brackets show that **hurry** can mean EITHER "to move quickly" (*She hurried across the road*) OR "to make someone move quickly" (*Don't hurry me*).

2.5 Examples

The dictionary includes a great many examples of words in use. The examples may be short phrases or whole sentences, and they are written in *italic letters* after the definition, like this:

ran-sack /'rænsæk/ *v* [T] 1 to search (a place) thoroughly and roughly, causing disorder: *The police ransacked the house, looking for drugs.* 2 to go through (a place) stealing and causing widespread damage: *Enemy soldiers ransacked the town.*

Examples are normally written in simple language, but if a difficult word or phrase is included it is usually explained by a note in brackets, like this:

groom² *v* 1 [T] to take care of (horses), esp. by rubbing, brushing, and cleaning them 4 [T (for)] to prepare (someone) for a special position or occasion: *They were grooming her for stardom.* (=to play big parts in plays or films)

The examples are used to help you understand the meaning of a new word and to show how it is actually used.

They have special functions:

- 1 to show context – the kinds of situation in which the headword is typically used
- 2 to show grammar – the way the headword can combine with other words in clauses or sentences
- 3 to show collocation – the particular words that are often used with the headword

Here are some examples:

Context

pelt¹ /pelt/ *v* 1 [T (with)] to attack (someone) by throwing a lot of things at them, quickly and repeatedly: *They pelted the speaker with rotten tomatoes.*

This example gives a typical situation in which **pelt** might be used, and it also shows the kind of things that people throw when they **pelt** someone.

Grammar

guess¹ /ges/ *v* 1 [I (at); T] to form a judgment (about) or risk giving an opinion (on) without knowing or considering all the facts: *"I don't know the answer."* "Well just guess!" | *Can you guess (at) the price?* [(+that)] *I guessed I'd find you in here!* [(+wh-)] *You'll never guess how much/what it cost.* [(+obj+to-v)] *I'd guess it to be about £300.*

These examples show how **guess** can be used as a transitive or intransitive verb (with or without an object) or with various kinds of clause. The sloping line (/) is used to show different uses of a word that are equally common or equally correct. So you can say:

You'll never guess what it cost.

OR *You'll never guess how much it cost.*

Collocation

herd¹ /hɜːd||hɜːrd/ *n* 1 [C+sing./pl. v] a group of animals of one kind which live and feed together: *a herd of cattle/elephants* –compare FLOCK¹ (1)

The definition explains what **herd** means, but it is the example that shows the kinds of animal that **herd** is used in connection with. This is an example of "collocation", or the way that some words are regularly used in combination with others. If a particular combination is very common or very fixed, it is shown in **dark type**, like this:

harm¹ /hɑːm||hɑːrm/ *n* [U (to)] 1 damage or wrong: *His film was a complete failure, and this did his reputation a lot of harm.* | *I don't think you should punish them for this – it would probably do more harm than good.* (=have a damaging rather than helpful effect) –see also GRIEVOUS BODILY HARM 2 **come to harm** [*usu. in negatives*] to be hurt: *My brother's ship was caught in a storm but he came to no harm.* 3 **out of harm's way** in a position in which one is a safe from harm or b unable to cause harm

This means that the expression **do more harm than good** is a particularly common use of the noun **harm**. The note in brackets at the end of the example helps to make the meaning completely clear.

2.6 Figurative examples

Some words are used in an imaginative or "figurative" way, to suggest a meaning that is not the literal meaning but has some similarities with it. If a word is often used like

this, the examples will include a figurative use, and this is shown by the note (fig.):

grab¹ /græb/ *v* -bb- [T] **1** to take hold of (a person or thing) with a sudden rough movement, esp. for a bad or selfish purpose: *He grabbed the money and ran off.* | *They grabbed her by the arm and forced her into their car.* | (fig.) *Don't miss this chance to travel – grab it before the boss changes her mind.*

As the definition shows, **grab** describes a physical action or movement. But **grab** can also be used to express the idea of eagerly accepting a chance or opportunity. This is NOT a physical process, so the example is figurative.

2.7 Brackets in examples

Brackets are used in examples:

- 1 to make the meaning of the example sentence completely clear
- 2 to show the situation in which a particular expression would be used
- 3 to show that part of an example can be either included or left out

Here are some examples:

Explanation

ram² *v* -mm- [T] **1** to run or drive into (something) very hard: *His car rammed mine.* **2** [+obj+adv/prep] to force into place with heavy pressure: *I rammed down the earth round the newly planted bush.* | (fig.) *The terrorist attack rammed home the need for tighter security.* (=forced people to recognize this need)

Explanations like this are often given as an additional way of making the meaning clear, and they are especially common if the example is figurative or includes a strong collocation in dark type.

Situation

sup-pose¹ /sə'pəʊz/ *v* [T not usu. in progressive forms] **1** [(+that);obj] to consider to be probable; ASSUME: *As she's not here, I suppose she must have gone home.* | *There's no reason to suppose that his new book will be any better than his last one.* | *"He must have missed the train, then."* "Yes, I suppose so." | *I don't suppose she'll agree.* | (in polite requests) *I don't suppose you could give me a lift to the station, could you?*

In this case, the note in brackets explains that **suppose** is often used in expressions like this as a polite way of making a request.

Inclusion or exclusion

pass¹ /pɑːs/ [pæs/ *v* **1** [I (BY);T] to reach and move beyond (a person or place) **6** [I;T (to)] (in various sports) to kick, throw, hit, etc. (esp. a ball), esp. to a member of one's own side: *He passed (the ball) back to the goalkeeper.*

Pass can be used here either with or without an object. So "the ball" can be left out of this sentence, and is therefore shown in brackets.

3 Grammar

As well as explaining the meaning of words, the dictionary provides a great deal of information about grammar. It tells you the word class that a headword belongs to – whether it is a noun, an adjective, a verb, or some other type of word. It gives information about the inflections of words – how their form changes when they are used in the plural, or in the past tense, or in some other way. And it gives a full description of the word's syntax – the various patterns in which it can combine with other words to form sentences. The purpose of this section is to explain how to use the grammatical information in the dictionary.

- 3.1 Word classes
- 3.2 Inflections
- 3.3 Grammar codes
- 3.4 Grammar and phrasal verbs

3.1 Word classes

Most words in the dictionary are given a special sign to show their word class (or "part of speech"), like this:

harm-less /'hɑːmləs/ [hɑːrm-/ *adj* unable or unlikely to cause harm: *The dog seems fierce, but he's harmless.* – ~ly *adv* – ~ness *n* [U]

This means that **harmless** is an adjective. Derived forms are also given word class labels: **harmlessly** is an adverb and **harmlessness** is a noun. Some words belong to more than one word class, and these are usually shown as separate headwords, like this:

for-mat¹ /'fɔːmət/ [fɔːr-/ *n* **1** the size, shape, etc., in which something, esp. a book, is produced **2** the general plan or arrangement of something: *a new format for the six o'clock TV news* | *Official reports are usually written to a set format.*

format² *v* -tt- [T] to arrange (a book, computer information, etc.) in a particular format

But occasionally a word belonging to two different word classes is dealt with in a single combined entry, like this:

fric-a-tive /'frɪkətɪv/ *adj, n tech* (a consonant sound such as /f/ or /z/) made by forcing air out through a narrow opening between the tongue or lip and another part of the mouth

Fricative can be a noun OR an adjective. The full definition describes its use as a noun. If the words in brackets are left out, the part that remains describes its use as an adjective.

Words referring to people, places, organizations, institutions, etc. are given no sign to show word class and no grammar code, e.g.:

High-grove House /,haɪgrəʊv 'haus/ a house in Gloucestershire, England, which is owned by the Prince and Princess of Wales

If the name of a place, institution, etc. is usually used with "the", it is given the grammar code [the]:

Grand Na-tion-al /,græn 'næʃənəl/ [the] a famous horse race held each year at the Aintree course near Liverpool. Many people who never usu. show interest in racing risk their money on the horse they think will win the Grand National.

Table 3.1 shows the word classes used in the dictionary. You can find the exact meanings of these terms by looking up their definitions in the dictionary.

Table 3.1 Word classes

sign	word class	examples
<i>abbrev.</i>	abbreviation that can be written or spoken	<i>domestic animals, e.g. cows and sheep</i> <i>Washington DC</i>
<i>adj</i>	adjective	<i>a fast car</i> <i>a run-of-the-mill book</i>
<i>adv</i>	adverb	<i>smiling happily</i> <i>Put it away.</i>
<i>conj</i>	conjunction	<i>You won't pass unless you work.</i>
<i>determiner</i>	determiner	<i>this week</i> <i>my younger brother</i>
<i>interj</i>	interjection	<i>Hello Jane!</i> <i>Ouch!</i>
<i>n</i>	noun	<i>a black dog</i> <i>a few odds and ends</i>
<i>phr v</i>	phrasal verb	<i>I've given up smoking.</i> <i>Hand the books out.</i> <i>I won't put up with this.</i>
<i>predeterminer</i>	predeterminer	<i>all the students</i> <i>half an hour</i>
<i>prep</i>	preposition	<i>Put it in the drawer.</i> <i>Don't drive after drinking.</i>
<i>pron</i>	pronoun	<i>She bought it for herself.</i> <i>Who said that?</i>
<i>short for</i>	shortened form of a pronoun + verb combination	<i>I'll do it.</i> <i>They'd already left.</i>
<i>v</i>	verb	<i>She teaches English.</i> <i>You need a rest.</i>
<i>written abbrev.</i>	abbreviation that can be written but not spoken	<i>Fri. 20th October</i> <i>13,000 Hz</i>

3.2 Inflections

General notes

Inflections are the changes that are made in the form of a word according to how it is being used in a sentence. Most words form their inflections according to regular rules. For example, nouns usually add **-s** OR **-es** to make the plural, and verbs usually end in **-ed** when they are used in the past tense. These “regular inflections” are not shown in the dictionary, except where there is a possibility of confusion or if the regular inflection has a difficult pronunciation.

“Irregular inflections” are always shown. They come directly after the word class sign and they are written in **dark type**, like this:

sheep /ʃi:p/ *n* **sheep** 1 a grass-eating animal that is farmed for its wool and its meat

This means the plural of **sheep** is **sheep** (NOT **sheeps**, which would be a regular plural).

For words of two or more syllables, only the part that changes is usually shown, like this:

hy-poth-e-sis /haɪ'pɒθə'sɪs/ *n* **-ses** /sɪz/

So the plural of **hypothesis** is **hypotheses**.

Inflections that are formed by doubling the consonant at the end of a word are shown like this:

grab¹ /græb/ *v* **-bb-**
grim /grim/ *adj* **-mm-**

This means that **grab** becomes **grabbed** in the past, **grabbing** in the present participle, and so on. And **grim** becomes **grimmer** and **grimmest** when used in the comparative and superlative.

If an irregular inflection is very different from the base form, it also has its own separate entry directing you to the base form, like this:

fought /fɔ:t/ *past tense & participle of FIGHT*¹

Special rules for nouns, verbs, and adjectives

Noun inflections

If two or more plural forms are possible, they are shown like this:

hoof /hu:f/ *n* **hoofs** OR **hooves** /hu:vz/

Inflections are always shown for nouns ending in **-o** because it is impossible to know whether the plural of a particular noun will be **-os** OR **-oes**:

ga-ze-bo /gə'zɪ:bəʊ/ *n* **-bos** a shelter or hut, usu. in a garden, where one can sit and look at the view

Verb inflections

If only one inflection is shown at a verb, it is both the past tense and the past participle:

catch¹ /kætʃ/ *v* **caught** /kɔ:t/

This means that **caught** is used for the past tense (*She caught the ball*) AND for the past participle (*The ball has been caught*).

If two inflections are shown, the first one is the past tense and the second one is the past participle:

for-give /fə'gɪv/ *v* **-gave** /'geɪv/, **-given** /'gɪvən/

If any variation is possible, it is shown like this:

sow¹ /səʊ/ *v* **sowed, sown** /səʊn/ OR **sowed**

This means that the past tense is **sowed**, but the past participle can be either **sown** OR **sowed**.

If other irregular inflections are shown in addition to the past tense and past participle, they come after these two and are fully explained.

go¹ /gəʊ/ *v* **went** /went/, **gone** /gɒn||gɔ:n/ *3rd person sing. present goes*

There is a full list of verbs with irregular inflections at the back of the book on page B23.

Adjective inflections

A small number of adjectives have irregular forms when used in the comparative and superlative. These irregular inflections are shown like this:

bad¹ /bæd/ *adj* **worse** /wɜ:s||wɜ:rs/, **worst** /wɜ:st||wɜ:rst/

The comparative is shown first, the superlative second.

In all other cases, the comparative and superlative forms of adjectives are produced EITHER by adding **-er** and **-est** (or **-r**, **-st**, **-ier**, **-iest**) OR by using **more** and **most** before the adjective. The choice of inflection types is governed by these general rules:

for words of one syllable

-er, **-est** are usual; **more**, **most** are possible but uncommon:

rich richer richest

for words of two syllables

-er, **-est** and **more**, **most** are equally common:

wealthy wealthier wealthiest

OR **more wealthy most wealthy**

for words of three or more syllables

more, **most** are always used:

affluent more affluent most affluent

There are occasional exceptions to these general rules. The two main exceptions are:

1 adjectives formed from participles never use **-er**, **-est**:

bored more bored most bored

tiring more tiring most tiring

2 adjectives which have three syllables but start with

un- can use **-er**, **-est**:

unhappy unhappier unhappiest

3.3 Grammar codes

The dictionary uses a special system of easy-to-understand grammar codes. These codes give a complete description of the various ways in which a word can combine with other words to form sentences. The grammar codes are shown in square brackets, like this:

a-wake¹ /ə'weɪk/ *adj* [F] not asleep: *She lay awake for hours thinking about him.* | *The children are still wide awake.* (=not at all sleepy) | (fig.) *The company is awake to (=conscious of) these new developments.*

This code means that **awake** can only be used AFTER the noun it describes, not before it. So you can say:

The children are awake and making a lot of noise but

NOT

The awake children are making a lot of noise.

There is a full list of all the grammar codes at the front of the dictionary.

This section will explain:

- The main types of code
- Where to find the codes in a dictionary entry
- What the special signs in codes mean
- The relationship between the codes and the examples
- How the codes are used with adjectives, nouns and verbs

The main types of code

The code system consists of four main types of information. These are:

- 1 the letter codes, like [I] [T] [C] [U]
These give basic grammatical information, such as whether a verb is transitive or intransitive, and whether a noun is countable or uncountable.
- 2 Prepositions or adverbs, like [(to)] [(with)], that can or must be used after a particular word
- 3 sentence pattern codes like [+to-v] [+v-ing]
These show the types of clause that can follow a word.
- 4 other limitations on a word's use, e.g. [usu. sing.] [usu. in negatives] [not in progressive forms]

Where to find the codes

Codes can be shown at three different places in an entry. These are:

- 1 before ALL the definitions, like this:

fox² *v* [T] *infml* 1 *BrE* to confuse; to be too difficult for (someone) to understand: *The second question on the exam paper completely foxed me.* 2 to deceive cleverly; trick: *He managed to fox them by wearing a disguise.*

This means that, although **fox** has two separate meanings, they both have the same code.

- 2 at the beginning of a particular definition, like this:

rarity /'reərɪti/ *n* 1 [U] the state or quality of being RARE¹ (1): *These stamps have great rarity value.* 2 [C] something uncommon: *People who bake their own bread have become a rarity/something of a rarity.*

- 3 directly before a particular example, like this:

hunch¹ /hʌntʃ/ *n* an idea based on feeling rather than on reason or facts: *"How did you know that horse was going to win?" "It was just a hunch."* [(+that)] *I have a hunch that she didn't really want to go.*

This means that **hunch** can be followed by a clause with *that*, and an example of this pattern is shown straight after the code.

What the special signs in codes mean

Brackets

Round brackets () are used to show parts of a code that can either be included or left out. Their main use is to show the prepositions or adverbs that are frequently used after a particular word, like this:

gap /gæp/ *n* [(in, between)] **1** an empty space between two objects or two parts of an object: *The gate was locked but we went through a gap in the fence.*

This means you can say:

We went through a gap in the fence

OR *We went through a gap between the houses.*

But the brackets show that these prepositions are only "optional" – they do not have to be used – so you can also say, simply:

We went through a gap.

Note that **in** and **between** are written in **dark type** because they are prepositions. When adverbs are shown in codes, they are written in SMALL CAPITAL LETTERS, like this:

heal /hi:l/ *v* **1** [I (OVER, UP)] (of a wounded part of the body) to become healthy again, esp. to grow new skin

The code here means you can say:

The wound healed up

The wound healed over

OR simply

The wound healed.

The plus sign

The plus sign + is used to show part of a code that **MUST** be included. For example:

fraught /frɔ:t/ *adj* **1** [F+with] full of something unpleasant: *The expedition through the jungle was fraught with difficulties and danger.* **2** *infml* troubled by anxieties; very **TENSE**

The code shows that **with** is 'obligatory' here. It **MUST** be used after **fraught** in this meaning, so you cannot say:

The expedition was fraught.

Here is another example:

hare² *v* [I+adv/prep] *BrE infml* to run very fast: *He hared off down the road.*

The code [I] shows that **hare** is an intransitive verb, but in this case it **MUST** also be followed by an adverb or preposition. So you can say:

We hared off down the road/She hared along the street/I hared after the bus, and so on.

But you cannot simply say:

We hared.

Note that the + sign has a different function when it is used in codes that come directly before examples.

In these cases, the pattern shown is **NOT** obligatory: the + here simply means that this pattern can be used as well as any others that have already been mentioned.

The relationship between the codes and the examples

The codes give a complete description of the grammar of each word and each meaning. The examples illustrate most of the information shown in the codes, but simple grammatical points are not always illustrated with an example. For instance, if a noun can be both countable and uncountable, examples of each use will not necessarily be given, or if a code shows that a particular word can be used with several different prepositions, there will not always be an example of every one. But if the codes include a sentence pattern, such as [+v-ing] or [+to-v], this will always be shown in an example.

When there is a wide range of grammatical information for a particular word or meaning, the examples usually start by illustrating the simple uses and then move on to those which are more difficult or less common, like this:

re-mem-ber /rɪ'membə/ *v* [not usu. in progressive forms]

1 [I;T (as)] to (be able to) bring back to one's mind (information, past events, etc.); keep in the memory: "What's her name?" "I can't remember." | *I'll always remember that wonderful day.* | *I remember her as (=I think she was, if my memory is correct) rather a tall woman.* [+ (that)] *She suddenly remembered that she had not locked the door.* [+wh-] *Can you remember where he lives/how to get there?* [+v-ing] *I don't remember agreeing to that.* | *Certainly I posted your letter – I remember posting it.* [+obj+v-ing] *Do you remember me asking you that same question?*

These examples show **FIRST** simple intransitive and transitive uses, **THEN** a sentence that shows how the verb can be used with the preposition **as**, and **LASTLY** some sentences that show the four different sentence patterns which can be used with **remember**.

Table 3.3 How the codes are used with adjectives, nouns, and verbs

code	meaning	examples	correct or incorrect
adjectives			
no code	Can be used before the noun it describes, after a verb, or after a verb and its object. Most adjectives can behave like this, and so they are not coded.	<u>a happy smile</u> <u>She looks happy.</u> <u>It made her happy.</u>	
[A]	Used only before the noun it describes.	<u>an indoor swimming pool</u> The pool is indoor.	×
[F]	Used only after a verb.	<u>The children are asleep.</u> the asleep children	×
[after n]	Used directly after the noun it describes	<u>the director designate</u> the director is designate. the designate director	×
[also n, the + P]	Can be used with the to form a plural noun.	<u>The rich (= rich people) have received tax cuts.</u>	×
[no comp.]	Not used in the comparative or superlative forms.	<u>the main difficulty</u> This is the mainest difficulty.	×
optional or obligatory prepositions, such as [(in)] [(about)] [+with]	Many adjectives are followed by particular prepositions. The round brackets show that a preposition may or may not be used, but the plus sign means that the preposition MUST be used.	<u>interested in football</u> <u>glad about your new job</u> <u>fraught with problems</u>	
sentence patterns, such as [+to-v] [+that]	Some adjectives can be followed by sentence patterns, such as a <i>to</i> -infinitive or a <i>that</i> -clause.	<u>afraid to tell her</u> <u>hopeful that she'll win</u>	
nouns			
no code	Simple countable noun: a large number of nouns are of this type so they are not given a code.	<u>Have you got a dog?</u> <u>The dogs were barking.</u>	
	Most nouns can also be used before another noun as "modifiers". This use is not coded but is shown in examples when it is common.	<u>dog food</u> <u>office equipment</u>	
[C]	Countable noun: these are ONLY coded if they also have another code, e.g.: illness n [C;U].	<u>serious illnesses</u> <u>absent due to illness</u>	
[U]	Uncountable noun: not used in the plural and not usually used with a , an , or one .	<u>a roomful of furniture</u> some furnitures	×
[P]	Plural noun: used only with a plural verb or pronoun.	<u>Here is the information you asked for.</u> Here are the informations you asked for. <u>The police need public support.</u> <u>These trousers are new.</u>	×
[S]	Singular noun: cannot be counted or used in the plural; usually used with a or an .	This scissors is sharp. <u>I'll have a think about it.</u> I'll have one think about it. I'll have a few thinks about it.	×
[the]	Special noun that is the name of an actual place, organization, event, etc., ALWAYS used with the .	<u>the Kremlin</u> <u>the Renaissance</u>	
[the + P]	Shows use with the : [the + code] means the is obligatory.	<u>This place gives me the creeps!</u> This place gives me creeps!	×
[(the) U]	[(the) code] means the is common but not obligatory.	<u>She's got the measles.</u> <u>She's got measles.</u>	
[+sing./pl. v]	Noun representing a group or organization, which can be used with a	<u>The committee has reached a decision.</u>	

code	meaning	examples	correct or incorrect
optional or obligatory prepositions, such as [(between , with)] [+ of]	singular or plural verb when the noun is singular. (This use is common in British English but rare in American English.) Many nouns are followed by particular prepositions. The round brackets show that a preposition may or may not be used, but the plus sign means that the preposition MUST be used.	The <u>committee</u> have reached a decision. the <u>frontier</u> between Norway and Sweden Norway's <u>frontier</u> with Sweden a <u>hotbed</u> of crime	
sentence patterns, such as [+ <i>to-v</i>] [+ <i>wh-</i>]	Many nouns can be followed by sentence patterns, such as a <i>to</i> -infinitive or a clause beginning with a <i>wh-</i> word.	a <u>decision</u> to leave the <u>reason</u> why she went	
verbs			
[I]	intransitive verb; a verb that does not take a direct object.	He's <u>sleeping</u>.	
[T]	Transitive verb; a verb that must have a direct object, which may be a noun or pronoun, OR a clause. A verb with this code takes a noun or pronoun object. If a [T] verb can also take a clause as its object, a sentence pattern is added to the code.	We <u>got up</u> early. I <u>enjoyed</u> the book. I <u>enjoyed</u> it. I enjoyed.	×
[L]	"Linking" verb: a verb followed by a noun or adjective complement that refers to the subject of the verb. Most [L] verbs can have both nouns and adjectives as complements.	I <u>felt</u> stupid. I <u>felt</u> a fool.	
optional adverbs and prepositions, such as [I(TOGETHER)] [I(against)] [T(of)]	If an [L] verb can ONLY take an adjective, or ONLY a noun as its complement, it is coded [L+ <i>adj</i>] or [L+ <i>n</i>] Many verbs can be followed by a particular adverb or preposition, but the round brackets show that the verb can also be used without an adverb or preposition.	That <u>sounds</u> interesting. This <u>represents</u> a big improvement. The children <u>huddled</u> together. <u>plotting</u> against the government She was <u>accused</u> of murder.	
obligatory adverbs and prepositions [I+ <i>adv/prep</i>] [T+ <i>obj+adv/prep</i>]	Some verbs MUST be followed by a particular adverb or preposition. These verbs are treated as phrasal verbs. For example, refer is always used with to , so it is shown as refer to phr v . These verbs MUST be followed by an adverb or preposition, but many different adverbs or prepositions can be used. Verbs like this cannot be used on their own.	The writer <u>refers to</u> another book on this subject. My daughter <u>lives</u> along the road/abroad/in Italy. My daughter lives. <u>Put</u> the box away/on the table/over there. Put the box.	×
sentence patterns, such as [+ <i>to-v</i>] [+ <i>v-ing</i>] [+ <i>(that)</i>]	Many verbs can be followed by sentence patterns, such as a <i>to</i> -infinitive, a verb in the <i>-ing</i> form, or a <i>that</i> -clause.	We <u>decided</u> to go. She's <u>given up</u> smoking. I <u>think</u> (that) he's gone home.	×
special sentence patterns only used with verbs			
[+ <i>obj(i)</i>] [+ <i>obj(d)</i>]	A verb that takes two objects, an indirect and a direct object. Verbs with this pattern can usually also be used in the pattern: verb + direct object + to + indirect object.	I <u>handed</u> her the plate. I handed her. I <u>handed</u> the plate to her.	×

code	meaning	examples	correct or incorrect
	A transitive verb that is followed by an object AND a clause or complement is shown with a code that begins with [+obj +].		
[+obj+to-v]	Verb + object + infinitive.	<u>I advised her to go.</u> <u>She was advised to go.</u> I advised to go.	×
[+obj+to-v]	Verb + object + infinitive without to . The to is used when the verb is passive.	<u>We saw him leave.</u> <u>He was seen to leave.</u> We saw leave.	×
[+obj+v-ing)	Verb + object + verb in -ing form.	<u>They heard someone laughing.</u> <u>Someone was heard laughing.</u> They heard laughing.	×
[+obj+that]	Verb + object + clause with that .	<u>I told the boss that I would be late.</u> <u>The boss was told that I would be late.</u> I told that I would be late.	×
[+obj+wh-]	Verb + object + clause with wh- .	<u>Tell us why you did it.</u> <u>We were told why she did it.</u> Tell why you did it.	×
[+obj+v-ed]	Verb + object + past participle.	<u>I want this work finished by tomorrow.</u> I want finished by tomorrow.	×
[+obj+ad/]	Verb + object + adjective.	<u>They believed her guilty.</u> <u>She was believed (to be) guilty.</u> They believed guilty.	×
[+obj+n]	Verb + object + noun.	<u>They consider this offer a big improvement.</u> <u>This offer is considered (to be) a big improvement.</u> They consider a big improvement.	×
[obj] e.g. (T+that; obj)	A transitive verb whose object is always a clause, NEVER a noun or pronoun.	<u>They reasoned that the murderer must have been a woman.</u> They reasoned it.	×
[not in progressive forms]	A verb that is not used in the progressive aspect (i.e. not following the verb be in an -ing form).	<u>I like football.</u> I am liking football.	×

3.4 Grammar and phrasal verbs

Phrasal verbs can be transitive or intransitive, exactly like ordinary verbs. Intransitive phrasal verbs are used in the same way as other intransitive verbs. But in order to use a transitive phrasal verb correctly, you need to know exactly where its object or objects can go. For example, you can say:

Take off your coat

OR **Take** your coat **off**.

But you can only say:

She **takes after** her mother

and NOT

She **takes** her mother **after**.

Every phrasal verb entry provides information about where the object can go. This information is shown by means of an easy-to-use system of signs, which is explained in the examples that follow. There are six main types of transitive phrasal verb.

Table 3.4 Main types of transitive phrasal verb

verb type	meaning	examples	correct or incorrect
send sbdy./sthg. ↔ out	sbdy. means “somebody” (= a person) and sthg. means “something” (= a non-human object). The sign ↔ means that the object can come either before out or after it. But if the object is a pronoun (him, her , etc.) it MUST come directly after the verb. This is the most common type of phrasal verb.	We sent out the invitations. We sent the invitations out. We sent them out. We sent out them.	 ×
push sbdy. around.	The object must come BETWEEN push and around.	He always pushes his sister around. He always pushes around his sister.	 ×
break into sthg.	The object must come AFTER into.	They broke into the empty house. They broke the empty house into.	 ×
put up with sbdy./sthg.	The object must come AFTER both up and with.	I won’t put up with this. I won’t put this up with. I won’t put up this with.	 × ×
acquaint sbdy. with sthg.	There are two objects, one before with and one after it.	She acquainted us with the facts. She acquainted with us the facts.	 ×
see sbdy. through (sthg.)	The verb can have either one object, which comes before through , or two objects, one before through and one after it.	Here’s \$10 to see you through. Here’s \$10 to see you through the weekend. Here’s \$10 to see through you.	 ×

4 Style and usage – how the dictionary can help you to choose the right word

As well as explaining meaning and grammar, the dictionary provides a great deal of information about style and usage. A system of “labels” is used to show words and phrases that can only be used in certain styles of speaking or writing. There is also detailed information about word variation – how a particular meaning can be expressed by a variety of different words. And a system of cross-references – notes that direct you from one entry to another – is used to draw your attention to points of difference or similarity in words of the same general type. Finally, the Usage Notes give detailed information about difficult points of grammar, about fine differences between words of roughly the same meaning, and about choosing the most suitable word or phrase to express a particular idea. All this information will help you to use words correctly and to increase your vocabulary by building on what you already know.

- 4.1 Labels
- 4.2 Word variation
- 4.3 Cross-references
- 4.4 Usage Notes, Cultural Notes, features, and illustrations

4.1 Labels

- This section will explain:
- The purpose of labels
 - The types of label used in the dictionary
 - Where labels can be shown in dictionary entries

The purpose of labels

Most of the words in the dictionary could be used, either in speaking or writing, in any kind of situation, or in any

variety of English. But if the use of a word is limited in some way, it will be given a label, like this:

vend /vend/ v [T] 1 *law* to sell (esp. land or other property)

The label *law* shows that **vend** is only used as a technical legal term – for example, in contracts or other official papers. You would not say to a friend:

“I hear Susan’s planning to **vend** her house”. The meaning is correct, but the style is wrong.

There is another word with the same meaning:

flog /flog/ || flɑ:g/ v -gg- [T] 1 to beat severely with a whip or stick, esp. as a punishment 2 *BrE infml* to sell: *He makes a living flogging encyclopedias.*

In this case, the label shows that **flog** is an informal word: its use is limited to informal situations, and it is not usually used in writing (certainly not in official writing). The label also shows that **flog** is “British English”, that is, it would not be used by speakers of other varieties of English, such as Americans or Canadians.

The dictionary uses labels to show how the use of a particular word or meaning is limited to certain types of speech or writing, or to certain regions of the English-speaking world. Understanding these labels will help you to use the dictionary effectively in order to choose the right word for any situation.

Types of label used in the dictionary

This section explains the labels according to the type of information they show.

There is a full list of all the labels at the back of the dictionary.

Labels showing region

Most words can be used in any variety of English, but some are limited to particular parts of the world. These are shown by the following labels:

AmE American English

BrE British English

These are the two main varieties of English. American English usually includes the English of both the US and Canada. British English is the variety of English spoken in Britain, and usually also includes the English of Ireland, Australia and New Zealand, India and Pakistan, Africa and the Caribbean. But if a word is strictly limited to one region, this is shown by one of the following labels:

AustrE Australian English

CanE Canadian English

CarE Caribbean English

IndE & PakE Indian & Pakistani English

IrE Irish English

NZE New Zealand English

SAfrE South African English

ScotE Scottish English

Words that are used in English but borrowed from other languages (such as **zeitgeist** or **je ne sais quoi**) are given labels that show their language or origin:

Fr French

Ger German

It Italian

Lat Latin

Sp Spanish

Labels showing special fields or subjects

Some words are only used in certain fields of activity or certain types of writing. These are shown by the following labels:

bibl used mainly in the Bible

law legal term – used in contracts, courts of law, etc.

lit used mainly in literature

med medical term – used by doctors, nurses, etc.

naut nautical term – used by sailors

poet used mainly in poetry

tech technical term – used by specialists in various fields

Labels showing situations in which words are used

Some words would only be suitable in certain types of situation. These are shown by the following labels:

infml informal – used especially in conversation, in letters between friends, etc.

fml formal – used especially in official papers, business letters, public speeches, etc.

sl slang – very informal, rarely used in writing, used especially in the private language of particular social groups

Labels showing time

Some words are no longer used in modern English (though they will often be found in old books), and some are beginning to be used less often. These are shown by the following labels:

old-fash

old-fashioned – no longer common, used mainly by older people

old use

no longer used

rare or becoming rare

rarely used, or beginning to be used less often

Labels showing attitude

Some words are used to suggest a particular attitude. For example, the word **new-fangled** is similar in meaning to **modern**, but it also suggests an attitude of disapproval: if you call something **new-fangled**, it means that it is new but that you do not like it or regard it as necessary. Words that show the speaker's attitude are given one of the following labels:

apprec appreciative – shows that the speaker likes or approves of something

derog derogatory – shows that the speaker dislikes or disapproves of something

euph euphemistic – a polite or indirect word for something unpleasant or embarrassing

humor humorous – shows a joking or ironic attitude

pomp pompous – shows a foolishly self-important attitude

Labels showing other limitations on use

dial dialect – a word belonging to the local speech of a particular area

nonstandard a word regarded as incorrect by most educated speakers

taboo a very offensive word which should always be avoided

tdmk a trademark, whose use is officially controlled

Where labels can be shown in dictionary entries

Labels can appear in any of the following parts of an entry:

1 before ALL the definitions, like this:

ob-lo-quy /'ɒləkwɪ/ *n* [U] *fml* 1 strong words spoken against someone; ABUSE 2 loss of respect and honour; DISGRACE

This means that **obloquy** is formal in both its meanings.

2 before a particular definition, like this:

liq-uid /'lɪkwɪd/ *n* 1 [C;U] a substance which is not a solid or a gas, which flows, is wet, and has no fixed shape: *Water is a liquid.* 2 [C] *tech* either of the consonant sounds /l/ and /r/

This means that the second meaning is technical, but there are no limitations on the use of the first meaning.

3 in idioms, either before the definition:

9 dead as a doornail *infml* completely dead

or in the actual form of the idiom:

2 a new lease of life (*BrE*)/**on life** (*AmE*) the ability to be happy, active, and successful again, esp. after being weak or tired

This means that British speakers say “a new lease of life”, and American speakers say “a new lease on life”.

4 in or before a particular example, like this:

man-y /'meni/ *determiner, pron* **1** a large number (of); more than several but less than most: *Many people find this kind of film unpleasant.*
(*fml*) *Many a good climber* (=many good climbers) *has met his death on this mountain.*

The label here shows that **many** is informal when it is used in this particular pattern (**many a . . .**) but its other uses are not limited.

5 with a particular pronunciation, like this:

lee-ward¹ /'li:wəd, *tech* 'lu:əd/ *adj, adv naut*

This means that the usual pronunciation is /'li:wəd/ but there is also a special technical pronunciation /'lu:əd/. See also Section 5 on British and American pronunciations.

6 with a particular inflection, like this:

panel² *v -ll- BrE || -l- AmE*

This means that the past tense of **panel** is **panelled** in British English and **paneled** in American English.

7 with a particular spelling, like this:

leu-ke-mia also **-kae-** *BrE* /lu:'ki:miə/

This means that the usual spelling is **leukemia**, but in British English **leukaemia** can also be used.

8 with a variant, like this:

shoulder blade /'..../ also **scapula** *med-* *n*

This means that the usual word is **shoulder blade**, but there is also a special medical term **scapula**.

4.2 Word variation

Some words have several spellings, and some meanings can be expressed by several different words. For example, **judgment** can also be spelled **judgement**, and the substance **mother-of-pearl** can also be called **nacre**. These are examples of “word variation”.

This section will explain:

- How spelling differences are shown
- How word differences are shown
- How British and American differences are shown

How spelling differences are shown

If a word has more than one spelling, the main definition is given at the most common spelling and any other spellings are shown directly after the headword, like this:

caf-tan, kaftan /'kæftæn||kæf'tæn/ *n* a long loose garment, usu. of cotton or silk, worn in the Near and Middle East.

This means that **caftan** is the most common spelling, but **kaftan** can also be used. If you look up **kaftan** you will find a short entry directing you to the main headword, like this:

kaf-tan /'kæftæn||kæf'tæn/ *n* a CAFTAN

But if the two spellings are very close in alphabetical order, there will only be one entry:

judg-ment, judgement /'dʒʌdʒmənt/ *n*

How word differences are shown

If two or more words share the same meaning, the main definition is given at the most common word and the other words are shown before the word class, like this:

mother-of-pearl /'..../ also **nacre-** *n* [U] a hard smooth shiny pale variously coloured substance

This means that the usual name for this substance is **mother-of-pearl**, but it can also be called **nacre**.

Sometimes the alternative word is limited in its use (e.g. by being formal or technical). In cases like this, a label is added:

shoulder blade /'..../ also **scapula** *med-* *n*

Shoulder blade is the usual word, but the technical medical term is **scapula**.

Sometimes the alternative word applies to only ONE of the meanings of a headword. In this case, it is shown directly before that particular definition:

shroud¹ /'fraud/ *n* **1** also **winding sheet-** a cloth for covering a dead body for burial – see also **TURIN SHROUD**
2 something that covers and hides: *A shroud of secrecy hangs over/surrounds the plan.*

This means that **winding sheet** is another word for **shroud**, but only in its first meaning.

In all these cases, the alternative word has its own short entry directing you to the main headword:

na-cre /'neɪkər/ *n* [U] *esp. BrE* **MOTHER-OF-PEARL**

scap-u-la /'skæpjʊlə/ *n med for* **SHOULDER BLADE**

winding sheet /'waɪndɪŋ ʃi:t/ *n* a **SHROUD**¹ (1)

The only time a separate entry is NOT given is if the other word is very close in spelling to the main word, like this:

life-size /'lɪ·-/ also **life-sized** –

There are two other special cases where alternative forms are shown:

1 masculine and feminine forms

For some nouns (especially names of professions or of animals) there are special masculine and feminine forms, and these are shown like this:

fox¹ /fɒks||fɔːks/ *n* 1 [C] **vixen** *fem.* – a small doglike flesh-eating wild animal with a reddish coat and a wide furry tail. It is often hunted for sport in Britain and is said to have a clever and deceiving nature

This means that a female fox is called a **vixen**.

2 words that mean the same whether they are in the singular or plural form. Some words can be used in the plural to express a singular meaning. They are shown like this:

mak-er /'meɪkəʳ/ *n* 1 *a (often in comb.) a person who makes something: a mapmaker | a filmmaker | a trouble-maker* **b** also **makers** *pl.* – a firm that makes something: *My watch has gone wrong; I'm sending it back to the makers.*

This means that the firm that makes something can be called “the maker” or “the makers”. So you can express the same meaning by saying:

I'm sending my watch back to the **maker**
OR I'm sending my watch back to the **makers**.

How British and American differences are shown

British and American spelling differences

Some words have different spellings according to whether they are used in British English or American English. For example:

col-our¹ *BrE* || **color** *AmE* /'kʌləʳ/ *n* 1 [U] the quality in

The British spelling is **colour**; the American spelling is **color**. In cases like this, the main definition is shown at the British spelling, but there is also a short entry at **color**:

col-or /'kʌləʳ/ *AmE* for COLOUR

Notice the double bar || which is used to indicate a British/American difference.

Some words have a main spelling that is used in both British and American English, AND a second spelling that can also be used in one of these varieties. For example:

or-gan-ize also **-ise** *BrE* /'ɔːgənəɪz||'ɔːɪ-/ *v* 1 [T] to arrange

This means that both British and American speakers use the spelling **organize**, but British speakers also use the spelling **organise**.

British and American word differences

There are very many differences between British and American vocabulary. For example, a small farm that

grows fruit and vegetables for sale is called a **truck farm** by American speakers and a **market garden** by British speakers. In cases like this, the main definition is given at the British word, and the American word is given as an alternative, like this:

market garden /,ɪ·'lɪ-/ *BrE* || **truck farm** *AmE* – *n* an area for growing vegetables and fruit for sale

The American form also has its own short entry:

truck farm /'lɪ·-/ *n* *AmE* for MARKET GARDEN

Sometimes the differences are less clear than this. For example, the word **truck** (meaning a heavy road vehicle) is used in both British and American English. But many British speakers call this vehicle a **lorry**, whereas Americans never use this word. In cases like this, the main definition goes at the “World English” form, like this:

truck¹ /tʁʌk/ *n* 1 also **lorry** *BrE* – a large motor vehicle for carrying goods in large quantities

Truck has no label, so it can be used in any variety of English, but **lorry** – as the label shows – would only be used by British speakers.

4.3 Cross-references

Cross-references are notes that direct you from one headword to another. They are used to draw your attention to other words that have some connection with the word you are looking up. The information these notes provide can help you to find the words you need, avoid mistakes, and increase your vocabulary.

There are four main kinds of cross-reference:

1 opposites

When a word has an exact opposite, it is shown in **dark type** like this:

prov-i-dent /'prɒvɪdənt||'prɑː-/ *adj* *apprec* careful and sensible in providing for future needs, esp. by saving or storing –opposite **improvident** –~*ly adv*

The “opposite” note is especially useful when there is more than one opposite, according to the meaning:

of-fen-sive¹ /ə'fensɪv/ *adj* 1 causing offence; unpleasant: *offensive remarks/smells | I found him extremely offensive.* | *crude jokes that are offensive to women* –opposite **inoffensive** 2 of or for attacking: *offensive weapons | The troops took up offensive positions.* –opposite **defensive**

2 “compare” cross-references

These are used to inform you of other words that are similar to (but not quite the same as) the word you are looking up. For example:

spa-ghet-ti /spə'geti/ *n* [U] Italian PASTA (=food made from flour mixed with water) in the shape of long strings, cooked in boiling water –compare **MACARONI**, **TAGLIATELLE**, **VERMICELLI**

All these words – **spaghetti**, **macaroni**, **tagliatelle**, **vermicelli** – are types of pasta, but if you look at each definition you will see how they differ from each other.

"Compare" notes are often used to draw your attention to words that are sometimes confused because they look or sound very similar. For example:

ef-fi-ca-cious /,efɪˈkeɪʃəs/ *adj fml* (of a medicine, a course of action, etc.) producing the desired effect, esp. in curing an illness or dealing with a problem: *an efficacious remedy* – compare EFFECTIVE, EFFICIENT

- 3 "see also" cross-references are used to direct you to words that give more information about the word you are looking up or about the typical context in which it is used. They also sometimes direct you to a word where a story or historical event is explained in detail. For example:

ball² *n* 1 [C] a large formal occasion for social dancing 2 [S] *infml* a very good time: *They all had a ball at the party.* 3 You 'shall go to the ball! a phrase used by the FAIRY GODMOTHER to Cinderella in the story of Cinderella – see also CINDERELLA

The "see also" note is also used to draw your attention to other headwords that are formed using the word you are looking up. For example:

race¹ /reɪs/ *n* 1 [(against, between, with)] a competition in speed: *to have/run/lose/win a race | a ten-mile race | a boat race | a horse race | (fig.) a race against time* (=an attempt to complete something before it is too late) 2 *tech or lit* a strong flow of water: *A mill-race is the stream of water driving a water-mill.* – see also ARMS RACE, RAT RACE

The "see also" note is also used to direct you to the entry where an idiom has its definition. So if you look for the idiom **kick the bucket** at **bucket**, you will find a note directing you to **kick**, where the idiom has its definition:

bucket¹ /ˈbʌkɪt/ *n* 1 an open metal, plastic, or wooden container with a handle for carrying liquids. – see also **kick the bucket** (KICK¹ (11)) 3 **a drop in the bucket** a small amount which is not enough: *The money budgeted is a drop in the bucket compared to what is needed.*

- 4 "see" cross-references

These are used to direct you to Usage Notes, features, and illustrations, which are described in the next section.

4.4 Usage Notes, Cultural Notes, features and illustrations

In addition to the main dictionary entries, a great deal of information about language is provided in Usage Notes, Cultural Notes, features, and illustrations.

Usage Notes

The purpose of Usage Notes

The Usage Notes cover four main areas:

- 1 word sets

These notes explain the difference between words of roughly similar meaning: for example, a Usage Note at **fat** explains words like **chubby**, **stout**, and **overweight**.

- 2 difficult points of grammar and style

These notes explain, for example, whether a plural pronoun can be used after words like **anyone** and **someone** (can you say: *Someone has left their coat on my desk?*)

- 3 important British and American differences

These notes explain, for example, the different uses of the word **hire** in British and American English.

- 4 information about "pragmatics"

These notes explain the way some words and phrases can be used in conversation to suggest a meaning or attitude that could not be known simply through understanding the literal meaning of the words themselves. See, for example, the note at **mean** on the "pragmatic" use of the expressions "I mean" and "I mean to say".

Where Usage Notes are shown

Usage Notes come at the very end of a dictionary entry, in a separate paragraph:

hope-ful-ly /ˈhəʊpfəli/ *adv* 1 in a hopeful way: *The little boy looked at her hopefully as she handed out the sweets.* 2 if our hopes succeed: *Hopefully we'll be there by dinnertime.*

■ **USAGE** This second meaning of **hopefully** is now very common, especially in speech, but it is thought by some people to be incorrect.

If a Usage Note deals with several different words, the Note itself is usually shown at the most common word, and there are cross-references to it at the other words:

o-bese /əʊˈbiːs/ *adj fml* very fat; unhealthily fat – see **FAT** (USAGE) – **obesity** *n* [U]

Cultural Notes

The Cultural Notes give detailed information about the associations that words have for native speakers of English. Sometimes these associations are connected with old beliefs or traditions, sometimes with well known stories, and sometimes with historical or political events. They are also sometimes connected with particular aspects of British or American life.

Cultural notes come after the definition and examples of a particular meaning of a word:

flag¹ /flæɡ/ *n* 1 a square or OBLONG piece of material, usu. with a pattern or picture on it, that is put up as a sign of a country, organization, etc., or to make signals. Flags are often flown at HALF-MAST when an important person has died: *The French flags were flapping/fluttering in the breeze.* | *The danger flag was flying.* (=being shown) | *The children waved their flags as the queen passed by.* | (fig.) *Most of the countries that once lived under the British flag* (=were ruled by Britain) *are now independent.*

► **CULTURAL NOTE** In the US the American flag is a very important SYMBOL of the country and is supposed to be treated with respect. Children repeat the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag (= promise to be loyal to the country and its flag) at school and are usually taught how to fold it correctly. In the 1960s some American people burned the flag to protest against the Vietnam War, and many Americans felt very strongly that this was wrong. ◀

Features

The 16 features have been specially compiled to provide useful extra information on areas of particular cultural

interest in Britain and the US. Cross references from relevant entries direct you to the features.

Illustrations

The dictionary includes over 650 carefully chosen illustrations. The illustrations and the definitions work together to ensure that important language points and aspects of Western culture are explained in the clearest possible way. There are four main types of illustration:

- 1 picture of common animals, plants, objects, etc.
See for example **car**, **cottage**, **dog**.
- 2 pictures showing things that are not easily explained in words, such as shapes, complex actions, or small differences between words which are similar but not the same. See for example **cartwheel**, **jagged**, **pile**.
- 3 pictures showing groups of related objects. These explain the differences between similar objects, show the range of shapes and forms covered by a particular word, and serve as an important aid to vocabulary expansion. See for example **chair**, **pin**, **rack**.
- 4 pictures showing the basic physical meaning of words that are commonly used in an abstract or figurative way with the aim of making these abstract uses easier to understand. See for example **muzzle**, **pigeonhole**, **pioneer**.

5 Pronunciation

The dictionary provides detailed information about pronunciation and stress. The purpose of this section is to explain what the pronunciation symbols mean and where to find them in dictionary entries, how differences in British and American pronunciation are shown, and how the dictionary gives information about stress patterns in words and phrases.

- 5.1 Pronunciation symbols
- 5.2 Where pronunciations are shown
- 5.3 British and American differences
- 5.4 Stress
- 5.5 Special symbols

5.1 Pronunciation symbols

Pronunciations are shown using the standard system known as the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) and Table 5.1 shows the symbols that are used. The Table gives a common “key word” for each sound, and it also shows other ways in which the sound is often spelled. In addition to the symbols here, the dictionary uses a small number of special symbols: these are explained in section 5.5.

Table 5.1

CONSONANTS			VOWELS		
symbol	key word	other common spellings	symbol	key word	other common spellings
p	pen	happy	i:	sheep	field team key scene amoeba
b	back	rubber	ɪ	ship	savage guilt system women
t	tea	butter walked doubt	e	bed	any said bread bury friend
d	day	ladder called could	æ	bad	plaid laugh (AmE) calf (AmE)
k	key	cool soccer lock school cheque	ɑ:	calm	father heart laugh (BrE) bother (AmE)
g	get	bigger ghost	ɒ	pot	watch (BrE) cough (BrE) laurel (BrE)
tʃ	cheer	match nature question cello	ɔ:	caught	ball board draw four floor cough (AmE)
dʒ	jump	age edge soldier gradual	ʊ	put	wood wolf could
f	fat	coffee cough physics half	u:	boot	move shoe group flew blue rude
v	view	of navvy	ʌ	cut	some blood does
θ	thing		ɜ:	bird	burn fern worm earn journal
ð	then		ə	cupboard	the colour actor nation danger
s	soon	city psychology mes scene listen	eɪ	make	pray prey steak vein gauge
z	zero	was dazzle example (/gz/)	əʊ	note	soap soul grow sew toe
ʃ	fishing	sure station tension vicious chevron	aɪ	bite	pie buy try guide sigh
ʒ	pleasure	vision rouge	aʊ	now	spout plough
h	hot	whole	ɔɪ	boy	poison lawyer
m	sum	hammer calm bomb	ɪə	here	beer weir appear fierce
n	sun	funny know gnaw	eə	there	hair bear bare their prayer
ŋ	sung	sink	ʊə	poor	tour sure
l	led	balloon battle	eɪə	player	
r	red	marry wriggle rhubarb	əʊə	lower	
j	yet	onion use few (/ju:/) Europe	aɪə	tire	
w	wet	one when queen (/kw/)	aʊə	tower	
x	loch		ɔɪə	employer	

5.2 Where pronunciations are shown

Pronunciations are shown directly after the headword, like this:

ra·pa·cious /rə'peɪʃəs/ *adj fml* taking everything one can, esp. by force

As an additional help to pronouncing the word correctly, the headword is divided into its separate syllables (**ra-**, **-pa**, and **-cious**) by means of dots. These dots also show where you can break a word (or "hyphenate" it) at the end of a line of writing.

If a word has more than one correct pronunciation, all of them are shown:

leg·room /'legrʊm, -ru:m/

This means that the second syllable can be pronounced /-rʊm/ or /-ru:m/.

If two words have the same spelling and the same pronunciation, the second entry is not given a pronunciation:

pend·ing¹ /'pendɪŋ/ *prep fml* while waiting for; until: *We delayed our decision pending his return from Europe.*

pending² *adj* **1** [F] *fml* not yet decided or settled

But for words with the same spelling that have different pronunciations, a full pronunciation is shown at each word:

wind¹ /waɪnd/ *n* **1** [C;U] moving air; a current of air, esp. one moving strongly or quickly

wind³ /waɪnd/ *v* **wound** /waʊnd/ **1** [T] to turn round and round with a number of circular movements

If a word has another form that does not have a separate entry in the dictionary, it is given its own pronunciation:

lat·tice /'lætɪs/ also **lat·tice·work** /'lætɪswɜ:k||-wɜ:rk/

Compound words that are written with a space or a hyphen (like **bus stop** and **happy-go-lucky**) are not given pronunciations, provided that all the words from which they are formed have their own entries in the dictionary. Instead they are given stress patterns, like this:

happy-go-luck·y /,həpi'gəuləki/

But if any of the words that make up a compound word does not have its own dictionary entry, a full pronunciation is given:

lap·is laz·u·li /,ləpɪs 'læzjuli||-'læzəli/

The derived words which are formed using common suffixes and shown at the end of an entry do not usually have a pronunciation. For example:

lim·it·less /'lɪmɪtləs/ *adj* without limit or end: *limitless possibilities* — **~ly** *adv* — **~ness** *n* [U]

The pronunciation of **limitlessly** is the same as the pronunciation of **limitless** plus the pronunciation of **-ly**, and all the common suffixes are shown — with pronunciations — in the Word Formation section at the back of the dictionary.

But if the main word form changes when the suffix is added, a pronunciation will be shown. Here are some examples:

re·e·lect /,ri:ɪ'lekt/ *v* [T] to elect again: *He has been reelected to Parliament.* — **~ion** /'lekʃən/ *n* [C;U] : *She is seeking reelection for a third term of office.*

The last syllable of the base form changes slightly in the derived form.

lyr·i·cal /'lɪrɪkəl/ *adj* — **~ly** /kli/ *adv*

The spelling suggests a pronunciation /'lɪrɪkəli/, which would be incorrect.

le·gal·ize also **-ise** *BrE* /'li:ɡəlaɪz/ *v*

— **-ization** /,li:ɡəlaɪ'zeɪʃən||-ɡələ-/ *n* [U]

In this case, the sounds are the same as in the base form, but the stress is different.

Abbreviations which are only used in writing (such as **mm** or **lb**) are not given pronunciations. But pronunciations are shown for abbreviations that are commonly used in speech:

PC /,pi: 'sɪz/ *abbrev. for*: PERSONAL COMPUTER

Words that are "borrowed" from other languages are pronounced with English sounds and stress. We show the most common English pronunciation, although some speakers use a pronunciation closer to that of the original:

5.3 Names of people

Names which are pronounced the same as an ordinary word with the same spelling are listed after it and are not given a pronunciation:

cart·er /'kɑ:tə||'kɑ:r-/ *BrE old use n* a person whose job is driving carts

Carter, Jimmy (1924–) the president of the US from 1977 to 1981.

First names and titles are not given a pronunciation if they are the same as a name or title which has its own entry, or are pronounced and spelt the same as an ordinary word. In the above example, **Jimmy** is not given a pronunciation because **jimmy** is a word in the dictionary.

First names are given a pronunciation if they are pronounced differently from another entry with the same spelling, or have no entry of their own:

Co·le·ridge /'kəʊlərɪdʒ/, **Sam·u·el Tay·lor** /'sæmjʊəl 'teɪlə/

Initial are not included in the pronunciation unless they are always used when talking about the person:

Lee, General Rob-ert E /'rɒbət ɪz||'rɑːbərt-/

5.4 Foreign names and words

Foreign names, and words “borrowed” from other languages are pronounced with English sounds and stress. We show the most common English pronunciations, although some speakers may use a pronunciation closer to that of the original:

je ne sais quoi /,ʒə nə seɪ 'kwɑː/

Gar-cí-a Lor-ca /gɑː'sɪə 'lɔːkə||gɑːr'sɪə 'lɔːr-/

5.5 British and American differences

The dictionary shows both British and American pronunciations. The British pronunciations are based on those in the *English Pronouncing Dictionary* (14th edition, edited by Professor A.C. Gimson, Dent 1977) and the *Longman Pronunciation Dictionary* by Professor J.C. Wells (1990). They represent the accent called “Received Pronunciation” (or “RP”), which is common among educated British speakers, especially in southern England. The American pronunciations represent one (sometimes two) of the more common accents used by American speakers, and are based on the pronunciations in Webster’s *Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary* (1983). But in both varieties of English, many other accents are also used: for example, the British “RP” accent is not widely used outside southern England. So the pronunciations we show are not necessarily the only acceptable ones.

When only one pronunciation is shown, it can be used in both British and American English. When there is a difference, the British and American pronunciations are separated by a “double bar” (||), with British pronunciation on the left and the American one on the right:

as-sume /ə'sjuːm||ə'suːm/

This means that the British pronunciation is /ə'sjuːm/ and the American pronunciation is /ə'suːm/. For longer words, the pronunciation on the right of the double bar gives only the part that is different from the pronunciation on the left:

con-tra-dic-tion /,kɒntrə'dɪkʃən||,kɑːn-/

5.6 Stress

How stress is shown

When English words have two or more syllables, one syllable is pronounced more strongly than the rest: it has greater “stress”. In order to show which is the strongest syllable in a word, we put the mark // directly before it. For example:

de-vel-op /dɪ'veləp/

let-ter /'letə/

This means that the main stress in **letter** is on the first syllable, and the main stress in **develop** is on the second syllable.

Some longer words also have a weaker stress on another syllable, called the “secondary stress”. In these cases, the mark /,/ is put before the syllable that has secondary stress. For example:

min-i-com-put-er /'mɪnɪkəm,pjʊtə/

In this word the main stress is on the syllable **-put-** and the secondary stress is on **min-**. Some VERY long words have two secondary stresses. But the second of these is weaker than the first, and it is only shown with the mark /,/ when it has /ɪ/ as its vowel, as in:

con-tra-in-di-ca-tion /,kɒntrə,ɪndɪ'keɪʃən||,kɑːn-/

This is because /ɪ/ is the only vowel that can be either strong or weak (/ə/ is always weak and the other vowels are always strong).

Stress patterns in compound words

Compound words written with a space or a hyphen are given “stress patterns” instead of pronunciations. Each syllable in the stress pattern is shown by a dot, and the stress marks // and /,/ are shown before the dots which represent stressed syllables. For example:

word pro-cess-or /'• ,.../

This means that **word** has the main stress and **pro-** has the secondary stress.

Stress shift

Some compound words have different stress patterns according to whether they are being used directly before a noun. For example, the usual stress pattern for **plate glass** is /,• '•/, in sentences like:

The window is made of plate glass
and *We bought some plate glass for the window.*

But if **plate glass** comes directly before a noun which has a stronger stress, the word **glass** loses its stress altogether, as in:

plate glass window /,• • '•/

In this case, **plate** has more stress than **glass**. This is called “stress shift” because the stress has “moved back” to another syllable. Stress shift is shown by the mark /◀/ after the stress pattern:

plate glass /,• '•◀/

Stress shift can happen with single words, such as:

in-de-pen-dent¹ /,ɪndɪ'pendənt◀/

Stress marks in idioms

In idioms, the stress usually comes on the last “main” word (noun, adjective, verb, or adverb). So in the expression “mind your own business”, the word “business” has the main stress. In these REGULAR cases, stress marks are not shown for idioms. But if the stress in an idiom is not where you might expect it to be, a stress mark is shown before the word with the main stress. For example:

as the 'crow flies

Search 'me!

5.7 Special symbols

In addition to the standard IPA symbols, we use a number of special symbols. These are:

/r/

For example:

fire¹ /faɪə^r/

This symbol is used at the end of a word to show that in the British RP accent, the /r/ is only pronounced when a vowel follows. So British speakers say:

fire engine /'faɪər ,endʒɪn/

BUT **fire brigade** /'faɪə brɪˌɡeɪd/

In American speech however, the /r/ is ALWAYS pronounced, even if a consonant follows.

/ɰ/

For example:

def-i-ni-tion /,defɰ'niʃən/

This symbol is used to show that in both British and American speech, some speakers use /ɪ/ and others use /ə/. So **definition** can be pronounced either as /,defɪ'niʃən/ or as /,defə'niʃən/.

/ʊ/

For example:

reg-u-lar¹ /'regjʊlə^r/

This symbol is used to show that in both British and American speech, some speakers use /ʊ/ and others /ə/. So **regular** can be pronounced either as /'regjələ^r/ or as /'regjʊlə^r/.

/i/

For example:

hap-py /'hæpi/

ob-vi-ate /'ɒbviət||'ɑ:b-/

This symbol is used to show that many RP speakers say /ɪ/ and many American speakers say /i:/. It can also, for many speakers of both varieties, represent a sound that is somewhere between /ɪ/ and /i:/. This symbol usually appears EITHER at the end of a word (as in **happy**), and in this case it is also used when common suffixes are added (as in **happiness**), OR in an unstressed syllable in the middle of a word when the syllable that follows starts with a vowel (as in **obviate**).

/u/

For example:

punc-tu-al /'pʌŋktʃuəl/

This symbol is used to represent a sound that is similar to /u:/ but shorter. It usually appears in an unstressed syllable in the middle of a word when the syllable that follows starts with a vowel.

/ə/

For example:

trav-el¹ /'trævəl/

var-y /'veəri/

This symbol is used to show that the /ə/ sound can be left out when a word is pronounced. It is used in three ways:

- 1 to show a "syllabic consonant"

The sounds /l/, /m/, and /n/ can be "syllabic consonants": that is, they can form syllables on their own without a vowel. For example, **travel** is usually pronounced /'trævl/, without a vowel in the second syllable. But it can also be pronounced /'trævəl/, so in cases like this, the /ə/ symbol is used to show that either of these two pronunciations is possible. When a syllabic consonant is followed by a vowel sound, there are three possible pronunciations:

listener /'lɪsənə^r/ can represent

/lɪsənə^r/ (= three syllables; three vowels)

/lɪsnə^r/ (= three syllables; two vowels and one syllabic consonant shown here as /n/)

/lɪsnə^r/ (= two syllables; two vowels)

- 2 after a vowel and usually before a /r/, to show that the /ə/ sound can be left out

For example, some speakers (especially in America) pronounce **vary** as /'veri/, and others pronounce it as /'veəri/. The pronunciation given in the dictionary, /'veəri/, shows that either of these is possible.

- 3 after a consonant and usually before /r/, to show that the /ə/ sound can be left out.

For example, there are two possible pronunciations for **liberal** /'lɪbərə^l/:

/lɪbərə^l/ (= three syllables)

/lɪbrə^l/ (= two syllables)

/i/ and /j/

When /i/ appears in the middle of a word, followed by a syllable that starts with a vowel, it is often possible to use /j/ instead. For example:

fa-mil-i-ar-ize also **-ise** BrE /fə'mɪliəraɪz/

This can ALSO be pronounced /fə'mɪljəraɪz/. But the /j/ is not shown unless it is very common.

/n/ and /ŋ/

When /n/ is followed by /k/ or /g/ it is often possible to use /ŋ/ instead, but the /ŋ/ is not shown. For example:

en-gross /ɪn'grəʊs/

This can ALSO be pronounced /ɪŋ'grəʊs/.

Hyphens in pronunciations

Hyphens are used for two reasons:

- 1 to represent parts of a pronunciation that are not repeated

For example:

ac-cord-ance /ə'kɔ:dəns||-ɔ:r-/

The second pronunciation is /ə'kɔ:rdəns/ but the first and last parts of the first pronunciation are not repeated.

- 2 to prevent possible confusion

For example:

ar-cha-ic /ɑ:'keɪ-ɪk||ɑ:r-/

A

A, a /eɪ/ **A's, a's** or **As, as** **1** the first letter of the English alphabet **2** **from A to B** from one place to another: *What's the quickest way to get from A to B in London?* **3** **from A to Z** from the beginning to the end; including everything

A¹ /eɪ/ *n* **1** a note in Western music; the musical **KEY**¹ (4) based on this note **2** a mark given to a student's work, showing the highest level of quality: *I got an A in algebra.* | *She's an A student.* —see also **GRADE**¹ (3) **3** one of the common blood groups: *His blood group is A positive.*

A² *abbrev. for:* AMP

a /ə; strong eɪ/ also **an** (before a vowel sound)—indefinite article, determiner **1** (before a noun that names someone or something not already mentioned or known about): *Have you got a car?* | *I had a pain in my leg.* | *This is a very good book.* | *That sounds like an excuse to me.* | *She's a doctor/a famous writer.* | *It's a pity you can't come.* | *He's a friend of mine.* (=one of my friends) | *She was a Jones* (=one of the Jones family) before she married Bill **2** **a** one: *a thousand pounds* | *a dozen eggs* **b** (before certain words of quantity): *a few weeks* | *a lot of people* | *a little water* | *a great many times* **3** each; every; per: *six times a day* | *£2 a dozen* **4** the thing called; any; every: *A square has four sides.* | *I would say a parcel was bigger than a packet.* **5** (before the first one of a pair that seems to be a single whole): *a cup and saucer* | *a bucket and spade* **6** (before [U] nouns) a container or unit of: *I'd like a coffee, please.* **7** a certain amount of; some **a** (before [S] nouns, esp. words for actions): *Have a look at this.* | *You need a wash.* | *She has a good knowledge of chemistry.* **b** (before the -ing form of verbs when used as nouns): *He drove off with a crashing of gears and a screeching of tyres.* **8** a kind of: *Médoc is a (very good) wine.* | *This is a good Médoc.* **9** (before the name of a painter or other ARTIST) a work by: *This painting is a Rembrandt.* **10** one like or having the qualities of: *They say the young actress is a (new) Marilyn Monroe!* **11** **a** (before names of people, showing that someone is unknown to the speaker) a certain: *A Mrs Smith wishes to speak to you.* **b** (before names of times and places) a particular one: *I can't remember a Christmas when it snowed so much.* (compare *It always snows at Christmas.*) **12** **a** (after **half/rather/such/what/** (fml or lit) **many**): *I've got rather a headache.* | *What a nice girl (she is)!* | *I've never met such a nice girl.* | (fml or lit) *Many a small business has failed* (=many small businesses have failed) because of lack of investment. **b** (after **as/how/so/too** +adj): *He's got as big a car as you have.* | *I've never met so nice a girl.* —see **AN** (USAGE)

A-1 /,eɪ 'wʌn/ *adj* old-fash of the best quality; very good: *Our holiday was really A-1.*

A1 /,eɪ 'wʌn/ [*the*] a main road which goes from London to Edinburgh

A3 /,eɪ 'θriː/ *n* [U] a standard size of paper in the EC 29.7 x 42 centimetres: *a sheet of A3*

A4 /,eɪ 'fɔːr/ *n* [U] a standard size of paper in the EC 21 x 29.7 centimetres: *a sheet of A4*

AA /,eɪ 'eɪ/ **1** *abbrev. for:* ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS **2** [*the*] Automobile Association; a British organization which helps its members when their cars break down on the road: *I've joined the AA.* | *the AA handbook* **3** Associate of Arts; a US college degree

AAA¹ /,θriː 'eɪz/ [*the*] Amateur Athletic Association; a British organization for ATHLETES

AAA² /,trɪpəl 'eɪ/ American Automobile Association; an American organization which helps its members when their cars break down on the road

aard-vark /'ɑːdvɑːrk||'ɑːrdvɑːrk/ *n* a large animal of southern Africa, similar to an ANTEATER, which feeds on TERMITES at night. People sometimes use this word as an example of the first word that is likely to appear in a dictionary or ENCYCLOPEDIA.

Aa-ron /'eərən/ in the Bible, a priest, the brother of Moses

Aaron, Hank (1934–) a BASEBALL player famous for hitting more HOME RUNS than Babe Ruth, who had held the record for almost 40 years

AARP /,eɪ eɪ ɑː 'piː||-ɑːr-/ *abbrev. for:* AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED PERSONS

AB¹ /,ɪ 'ɪ-/ *AmE abbrev. for:* BA (1)

AB² one the common blood types

ABA /,eɪ biː 'eɪ/ *n abbrev. for:* AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

a-back /ə'bæk/ *adv* **be taken aback** to be shocked, esp. by something unpleasant or unexpected: *I was rather taken aback by his rudeness.*

ab-a-cus /'æbəkəs/ *n* a frame holding wires on which small balls can be moved, used for counting and calculating, esp. in eastern countries

ab-a-lo-ne /,æbə'ləʊni/ *n* [C;U] (the shell of) a kind of SHELLFISH, used as food and known for its shell, which is lined with MOTHER-OF-PEARL

a-ban-don¹ /ə'bændən/ *v* [T] **1** to leave completely and for ever; DESERT: *He abandoned his wife and children.* | *When the fire got out of control, the captain told the sailors to abandon ship.* **2** to give up or bring an end to (something), esp. without finishing it or gaining the intended result: *The bad weather forced them to abandon their search.* | *They abandoned all hope of finding the child.* | *The party has now abandoned its earlier commitment to restoring full employment.* | *The game had to be abandoned because of crowd trouble.* —see also **ABANDONED** —**ment** *n* [U]

abandon sbdy. **to** sthg. *phr v* [T] *lit* to allow (oneself) to be completely controlled by (a feeling, desire, etc.): *He abandoned himself to grief.*

abandon² *n* [U] the state when one's feelings and actions are uncontrolled: *People were shouting and cheering in gay abandon.*

a-ban-doned /ə'bændənd/ *adj* completely uncontrolled, esp. in a way that is thought to be immoral: *abandoned behaviour*

a-base /ə'beɪs/ *v* [T (to, before)] *fml* to make (oneself) lose self-respect; make HUMBLE —**ment** *n* [U]

a-bashed /ə'bæʃt/ *adj* [F] uncomfortable and ashamed in the presence of others, esp. when one has done something wrong or stupid —opposite **unabashed**

a-bate /ə'beɪt/ *v fml* **1** [I] (of winds, storms, sounds, pain, etc.) to become less strong; decrease: *The recent public anxiety about this issue may now be abating.* —see also **UNABATED** **2** [T] *law* to bring to an end (esp. in the phrase **abate a nuisance**) —**ment** *n* [U]

ab-at-toir /'æbətwaɪr/ *n* *BrE* for **SLAUGHTERHOUSE**

Ab-ba /'æbə/ a Swedish popular music group who became internationally successful when they won the Eurovision Song Contest in 1974, and whose music was popular with people of all ages

ab-bess /'æbɪs, 'æbes/ *n* a woman who is the head of a CONVENT (=a religious establishment for women called NUNS) —compare **ABBOT**

ab-bey /'æbi/ *n* **1** (esp. formerly) a building in which MONKS or NUNS live and work; MONASTERY or CONVENT —compare **PRIORY** **2** (often *cap. as part of a name*) a large church where MONKS or NUNS once lived: *Westminster Abbey*

Abbey Na-tion-al /,ɪ '...-/ [*the*] a British financial organization, formerly a BUILDING SOCIETY, now a bank and a PLC, branches of which are found in many towns and cities in Britain

ab-bot /'æbət/ *n* a man who is the head of a MONASTERY (=a religious establishment for men called MONKS) —compare **ABBESS**

Ab-bott and Cos-tel-lo /,æbət ənd kɒ'steləʊ||-,kɑː-/ **Bud** (1896–1974) and **Lou** /luː/ (1908–1959) two popular American COMEDIANS who appeared in many films together

ab-bre-vi-ate /ə'briːviət/ *v* [T] to make (a word, story, etc.) shorter

ab-bre-vi-a-tion /ə'briːvi'eɪʃən/ *n* **1** [C] a shortened form of a word, such as “Dr” for “Doctor” or “PTO” for “please turn over”. In this dictionary some abbreviations (such as *Dr*) are marked *written abbrev.*, showing that they are only used in writing and not in speech. **2** [U] the act of abbreviating

ABC¹ /,eɪ biː 'siː/ *n* *BrE* || **ABC's** *AmE*— **1** [U] the alphabet,

a·bom·i·na·ble /ə'bɒmɪnəbəl, -mə-nə-||ə'baɪ-/ *adj* causing great dislike; hateful: *abominable treatment of prisoners* | (*infml*) *The food in this hotel is abominable.* —**bly** *adv*

abominable snow-man /ə'..... 'lɒn/ *n* 1 a YETI 2 an evil character made of snow in an American television story for children

a·bom·i·nate /ə'bɒmɪneɪt||ə'baɪ-/ *v* [T *not in progressive forms*] *fml* to hate very much; ABHOR

a·bom·i·na·tion /ə'bɒmɪ'neɪʃən||ə'baɪ-/ *n* 1 [U] great hatred; DISGUST 2 [C] something deeply offensive or hateful

ab·o·rig·i·nal /,æbə'rɪdʒɪnəl/ *adj* [A] of or concerning people or living things that have existed in a place from the earliest times; INDIGENOUS: *an aboriginal civilization*

aboriginal ² *n* an aborigine

ab·o·rig·i·ne /,æbə'rɪdʒɪni/ *n* a member of the group of people that has lived in Australia from the earliest times

a·bort /ə'boɪt||-ɔɪrt/ *v* 1 [T] to cause (a child) to be born too soon, or to end (a PREGNANCY) too soon, so that the child cannot live: *The doctor had to abort the baby/the pregnancy.* 2 [I;T] *usu.* **miscarry** *AmE*— to give birth too early to (a dead child) —compare MISCARRY (1) 3 [I;T] *tech* to end before the expected time because of some trouble: *The space flight had to be aborted because of difficulties with the computer.*

a·bor·tion /ə'boɪʃən||ə'boɪr-/ *n* 1 [C;U] the act of stopping the development of a child inside a woman, esp. by a medical operation and usually before the 21st week: *She had an abortion.* | *Is abortion legal in your country?* | *drugs used to induce abortion* | *anti-abortion groups* —compare MISCARRIAGE, STILLBIRTH —see also BACK-STREET ABORTION

► **CULTURAL NOTE** Abortion under certain specific conditions was made legal in Britain in 1967, but it remains a subject about which people have strong feelings and different opinions. It is legal in the US but some states have tried to limit the cases in which it can be used. Abortion is a very important political issue in the US and many people have strong feelings about it. Both in Britain and the US there are organizations which want to change the law either to limit or to widen the conditions under which abortion is legal. Very few people want to make abortion completely illegal again, though there are some groups, esp. in the US, which want this. —see also PRO-CHOICE, RIGHT TO LIFE, ROE VS. WADE ◀

2 [C] *rare* a badly-formed creature produced by an abortion 3 [C] a plan or arrangement which goes wrong before it can develop properly

a·bor·tion·ist /ə'boɪʃənɪst||ə'boɪr-/ *n* a person, esp. not a doctor, who gets money for doing abortions

a·bor·tive /ə'boɪtɪv||ə'boɪr-/ *adj* failing to reach the result that was intended; unsuccessful: *an abortive attempt to build a railway* | *an abortive takeover bid* —**ly** *adv*

a·bound /ə'baʊnd/ *v* [I] *fml* to exist in large numbers or great quantity: *Theories/Questions abound as to the reasons for the president's decision.*

abound in/with sthg. *phr v* [T] to have in large numbers or great quantity: *The country abounds in valuable minerals.*

a·bout ¹ /ə'baʊt/ *prep* 1 on the subject of: *a book about lions* | *talking about their holidays* | *Something should be done about unemployment.* | *She feels very strongly about this.* —see ON¹ (USAGE) 2 also **around** *esp. AmE*— here and there in; in all parts of: *They walked about the streets.* | *books lying about the room* —see ROUND³ (USAGE) 3 in the character of: *There's something about her that I really don't like.* 4 *lit, esp. BrE* surrounding: *the high walls about the prison* 5 *fml* on the body of: *He had a gun hidden about his person.* (=in his clothes) 6 busy or concerned with (an activity): *going about one's day-to-day business* | *Do the shopping now, and while you're about it get me that book from the library.* | *Bring me a drink — and be quick about it!* 7 **what/how about:** a what news or plans have you concerning: *What about Jack? We can't just leave him here.* b (making a suggestion): *How/What about a drink?*

► **USAGE** In spoken English (it's) **about** can be used to introduce a topic you want to discuss: *Now, about your exam results, David. They're not very good, are they?* | *It's about my little boy, doctor, he's not very well.* ◀

about ² *adv* 1 also **around** *esp. AmE*— here and there; in

all directions or places: *They always go about together.* | *papers lying about on the floor* | *There are a lot of colds about at the moment.* (=Many people have colds just now.) 2 also **around** *esp. AmE*— somewhere near: *Is there anybody about?* 3 also **around** *esp. AmE*— a little more or less than: *about five miles/ten years* | *This year's profits are about the same as last year's.* 4 *infml* almost: *I'm about ready.* | *That looks about right.* 5 *fml* so as to face the opposite way: *The ship turned about and left the battle.* —see also **just about** (JUST¹); see ROUND³ (USAGE)

about ³ *adj* 1 [F] out of bed; active: *The doctor told me I'd be up and about again very soon.* —see also **out and about** (OUT¹) 2 **be about to** to be just ready to; be going to: *We were about to start, when it rained.* 3 **not about to** *infml, esp. AmE* very unwilling to: *I'm not about to lend you any more money.*

about-turn /ə'..... 'tɜːn/ *esp. BrE* || **about-face** /ə'..... 'fets/ *esp. AmE*— *n* [*usu. sing.*] 1 a change to the opposite position, opinion, or course of action: *The government has done a complete about-turn in its policy on military spending.* 2 (also *interj*) (a military order to) turn round and face in the opposite direction

a·bove ¹ /ə'baʊ/ *prep* 1 higher than; over: *We flew above the clouds.* | *There's nothing in this shop (at/for) above £5.* | *Raise your arms above your head.* | *500 feet above sea level* | *The town's birthrate was well above the national average.* —opposite **below**; see USAGE 2 to a greater degree than: *The company values hard work above good ideas.* | *respected above all others* | *to be praised for a dedication above and beyond the call of duty* (=much greater than usual or expected) 3 higher in rank or power than: *A general is above a major.* —opposite **below** 4 too good, proud, or honest for: *Her behaviour was above suspicion.* | *They're not above a bit of bribery if it will get them what they want.* 5 **above all (else)** most important of all: *And above all, remember to send us your comments.* 6 **get above oneself** to have too much trust in one's own cleverness —see also **over and above** (OVER¹ (13))

► **USAGE** The prepositions **above** and **over** can often be used in the same way: *Let's hang the painting over/above the fireplace.* If there is an idea of movement **over** is used: *The bird flew over the lake.* | *The sheep jumped over the wall.* **Over** is also used if there is an idea of covering: *He pulled the blanket over his head and fell asleep.* | *They built a roof over the courtyard.* ◀

above ² *adv* 1 in or to a higher place; higher: *I heard some noises coming from the room above.* | *A shout from above warned me of the danger.* 2 more; higher: *the numbers 20 and above* | *children of six or above* (=six or older) | *a military meeting for captains and above* (=of higher rank) 3 on an earlier page or higher on the same page: *the facts mentioned above* —opposite **below**

above ³ *adj* [A; after *n*] *fml* mentioned on an earlier page or higher on the same page: *For an explanation, see the above section/the section above.* [also *n, the+C, pl. above*] *The above is the profit before tax.* | *All the above are asked to attend tomorrow's meeting.*

a·bove·board /ə'baʊ'boɪd, ə'baʊ'boɪd||ə'baʊ'boɪrd/ *adj* [F] without any attempt to deceive: *Don't worry; it's all open and aboveboard.*

above-men·tioned /ə'..... 'lɒn/ *adj* [A] *fml* ABOVE³: *the above-mentioned facts* [also *n, the+P*] ... Williams, Brown, and Jones. *The above-mentioned will attend the course.* —compare UNDERMENTIONED

ab·ra·ca·dab·ra /,æbrəkə'dæbrə/ *n, interj* (a word spoken to help magic to be successful, when performing magic tricks for entertainment)

a·brade /ə'breɪd/ *v* [I;T] *tech* to wear away by hard rubbing

A·bra·ham /'eɪbrəhæm, -həm/ (in the Bible) a religious figure, considered to have established the Hebrews. Abraham was willing to kill his son Isaac because God asked him to. Then when God said it was not necessary, Abraham offered to kill a sheep instead.

a·bra·sion /ə'breɪʒən/ *n tech* 1 [U] loss of surface by rubbing; wearing away 2 [C] a place where the surface, esp. of the skin, has been rubbed or worn away: *suffering from multiple abrasions*

a·bra·sive ¹ /ə'breɪsɪv/ *adj* 1 causing the wearing away of a surface 2 causing annoyance or dislike; rough: *an abrasive voice/personality* —**ly** *adv*

abrasive² *n* [C;U] a substance, such as sand, used for cleaning, polishing, or removing a surface

a-breast /ə'breɪst/ *adv* **1** next to one another and facing the same way: *They were cycling two abreast.* **2** **keep/be abreast of** to know the most recent facts about: *Read the papers if you want to keep abreast of the times/of the latest developments in the news.*

a-bridge /ə'brɪdʒ/ *v* [T] to make (something written or spoken) shorter: *the abridged version of "War and Peace"* —see also UNABRIDGED

a-bridg-ment, **abridgement** /ə'brɪdʒmənt/ *n* **1** [C] something, such as a book or play, that has been made shorter: *an abridgment for radio in five parts* **2** [U] the act of making shorter

a-broad /ə'brɔ:d/ *adv* **1** to or in another country or countries: *He lived abroad for many years.* | *Are you going abroad for your holidays?* | *products sold both at home and abroad* **2** *fml* over a wide area; everywhere: *The news soon spread abroad.* **3** *old use* out of doors: *There was no one abroad so early.*

ab-ro-gate /'æbrəgeɪt/ *v* [T] *fml* to put an end to the force of: *to abrogate a law/a treaty* —**gation** /,æbrə'geɪʃən/ *n* [C;U]

a-brupt /ə'brʌpt/ *adj* **1** sudden and unexpected: *The meeting came to an abrupt end.* | *an abrupt change of policy/drop in oil prices* **2** (of behaviour, character, etc.) not wanting to waste time being nice; BRUSQUE: *an abrupt manner* —*~ly adv*: *Our discussion was abruptly curtailed.* —*~ness n* [U]

ab-scess /'æbses/ *n* a swelling on or in the body where PUS (=a thick yellowish poisonous liquid) has gathered

ab-scond /əb'skɒnd, æb-||æb'skɑ:nd/ *v* [I (from, with)] *fml* to go away suddenly and secretly because one has done something wrong

ab-seil /'æbseɪl/ *esp. BrE || usu. rappel AmE v* [I (down)] to descend a steep slope using a rope —**abseil n**

ab-sence /'æbsəns/ *n* **1** [C;U (from)] the state or a period of being away: *Caroline will be in charge of the office during my absence.* | *She took a year's leave of absence (=official pause) from her job.* | *Jane was conspicuous by her absence.* (=people noticed she was not there) | *After a long absence, he has returned to doing TV work.* —opposite **presence** **2** [U (of)] non-existence; lack: *We were worried by the absence of definite figures in the report.* | *In the absence of any further evidence (=because there was none) the police were unable to solve the murder.* **3** **absence makes the heart grow fonder** saying one likes a person better when one has been away from him/her for a little time; one forgets the less attractive things about a person

ab-sent¹ /'æbsənt/ *adj* **1** [(from)] not present: *How many students are absent (from class) today?* **2** [A] showing lack of attention: *an absent expression on his face* **3** *fml* not existing; lacking: *In the Manx type of cat, the tail is absent.* —see also ABSENTLY **4** **absent friends** (a phrase used when drinking, to show that one is thinking about people who are not able to be present): *I propose a toast — absent friends.*

ab-sent² /əb'sent, æb-||æb-/ *v* [T (from)] *fml* to keep (one-self) away: *He absented himself from the meeting.*

ab-sen-tee /,æbsən'ti: / *n* a person who ought to be present but stays away: *There were many absentees from the meeting.* | *an absentee landlord* (=who does not live near the property he owns)

absentee bal-lot /,... 'lɔ:/ *n AmE* an official paper used to vote by post when one cannot go to the place where voting is being done

ab-sen-tee-is-m /,æbsən'ti:ɪzəm/ *n* [U] regular absence from work or duty without good cause: *an industry with a high rate of absenteeism*

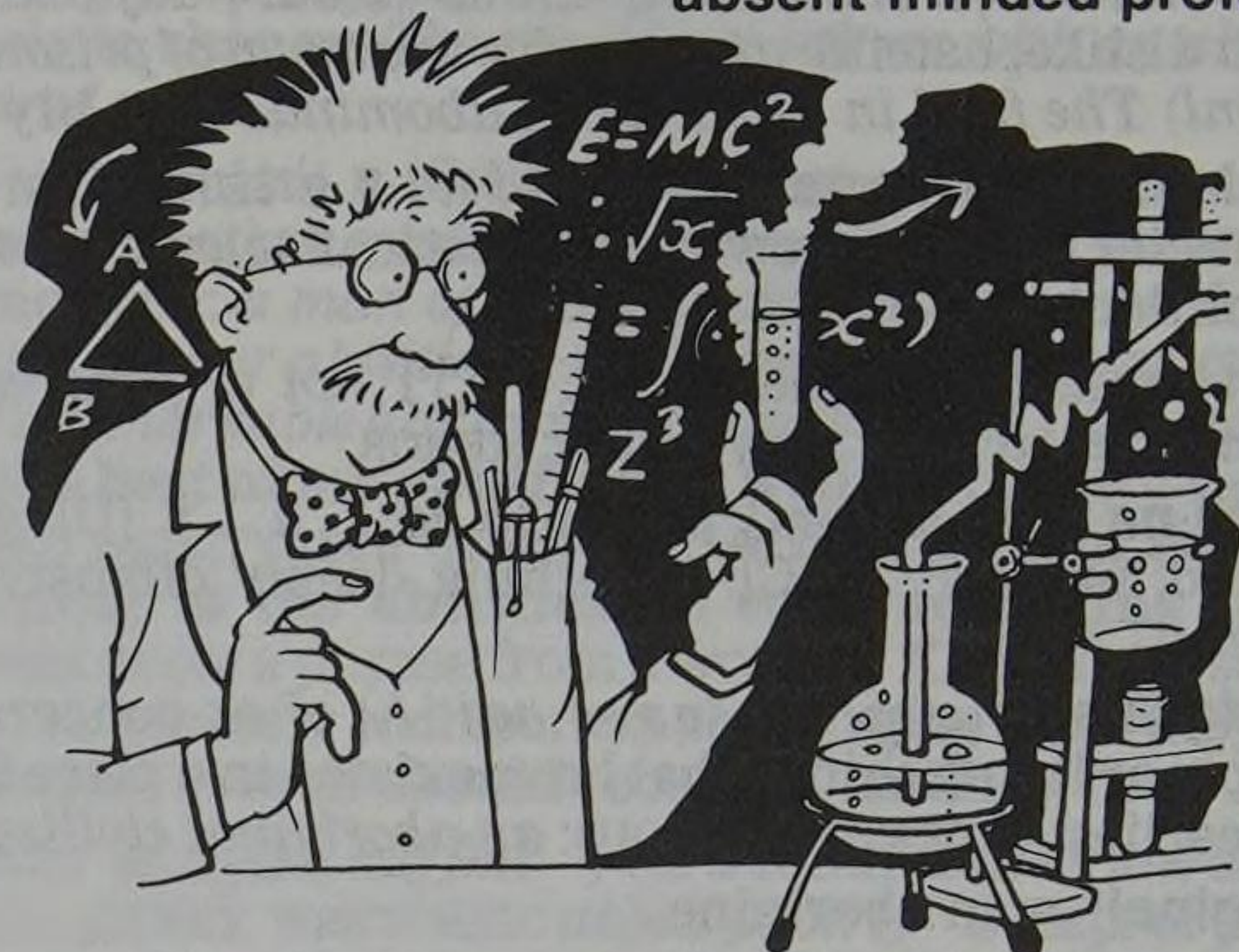
absentee vote /,... 'vɔ:/ *n AmE* a vote which is sent by post because one cannot go to the place where voting is being done

ab-sen-ti-a /æb'sentiə/ *n* **in absentia** *fml* for in his/her/their absence

ab-sent-ly /'æbsəntli/ *adv* in an absent-minded manner

absent-mind-ed /,... 'mɪnd-/ *adj* too concerned with one's thoughts to notice what is happening, what one is doing, etc.; PREOCCUPIED —*~ly adv* —*~ness n* [U]

absent-minded professor



absent-minded pro-fess-or /,... '.../ *n* a STEREOTYPE of a university teacher who is usu. a fairly old man and is very clever, but too concerned with his work and ideas to notice or remember things that are happening around him

ab-sinth, **absinthe** /'æbsɪnθ/ *n* [U] a bitter green very strong alcoholic drink

ab-so-lute /'æbsəlʊt/ *adj* **1** [A] complete; perfect: *a woman of absolute honesty* | *That's absolute nonsense!* **2** [A] not allowing any doubt: *We now have absolute proof of his guilt.* **3** having complete power; without limit: *an absolute ruler/monarchy* | *The general's power was absolute.* —see also ABSOLUTISM **4** not measured by comparison with other things: *In absolute terms, wages have risen, but not in comparison with the cost of living.* —opposite **relative** —see also DECREE ABSOLUTE —*~ness n* [U]

ab-so-lute-ly /'æbsəlʊtli, 'æbsə'lʊtli/ *adv* **1** completely: *I trust her discretion absolutely.* | *It's difficult to cross the desert by car, but not absolutely impossible.* | *I'm absolutely starving.* (=very hungry) **2** *infml* certainly: *"Do you think so?" "Absolutely!"*

▷ **USAGE 1 Absolutely** is often used to give more strength to following adjectives or verbs which are already very strong. Compare: *I'm very hungry* and *I'm absolutely starving.* | *I quite like jazz* and *I absolutely adore pop music.* **2** The adverbs **absolutely** and **altogether** are pronounced /'.../ when they come before the word they describe: *I 'absolutely refuse.* | *'altogether different.* They are pronounced /, ... '.../ when they come after the word or when they stand alone: *different ,alto'gether* | *,Abso'lutely!* ◀

absolute mon-ar-chy /,... '.../ *n* a state ruled by a king or queen whose power is not limited by any system of laws —compare CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY

absolute ze-ro /,... '.../ *n* [U] the lowest temperature that is thought to be possible

ab-so-lu-tion /,æbsə'lʊ:ʃən/ *n* [U] (esp. in the Christian religion) forgiveness for a SIN. A priest declares that a person is forgiven, and the person is then freed from guilt for the sin: *to grant someone absolution* —see also ABSOLVE

ab-so-lut-is-m /'æbsəlʊtɪzəm/ *n* [U] a political system or principle in which unlimited power is held by one ruler

ab-solve /əb'zɒlv-||-ɑ:lv/ *v* [T] **1** [(of, from)] to free (someone) from fulfilling a promise or from having to suffer for wrongdoing **2** (esp. of a priest) to forgive (a person) for doing wrong

ab-sorb /əb'sɔ:b, əb'zɔ:b-||-ɔ:rb/ *v* [T] **1** to take or suck (esp. liquids) in, esp. gradually: *Salt absorbs moisture from the air.* | *The walls of the house absorb heat during the day.* | (fig.) *So many new ideas! It's all rather too much for me to absorb all at once.* | (fig.) *Defence spending absorbs almost 20% of the country's money.* —see also SHOCK ABSORBER **2** [(in) usu. pass.] to completely fill the attention of; ENGROSS: *I was absorbed in a book and didn't hear you call.* —see also ABSORBING **3** [(into)] (of a country or organization) to make (a smaller country or organization) into a part of itself; gain control over: *The company has gradually absorbed its smaller rivals.* —**sorption** /-ɔ:psən-||-ɔ:rp-/ *n* [U (in, into, by)] : *his complete absorption in his work* | *the absorption of a small company into a larger one*

ab-sor-bent /əb'sɔ:bənt, -'zɔ:-||-ɔ:r-/ *n, adj* (something) that is able to absorb: *to put an absorbent dressing on a cut*

ab-sorb-ing /əb'sɔ:bɪŋ, -'zɔ:-||-ɔ:r-/ *adj* taking all one's attention; very interesting: *an absorbing task*

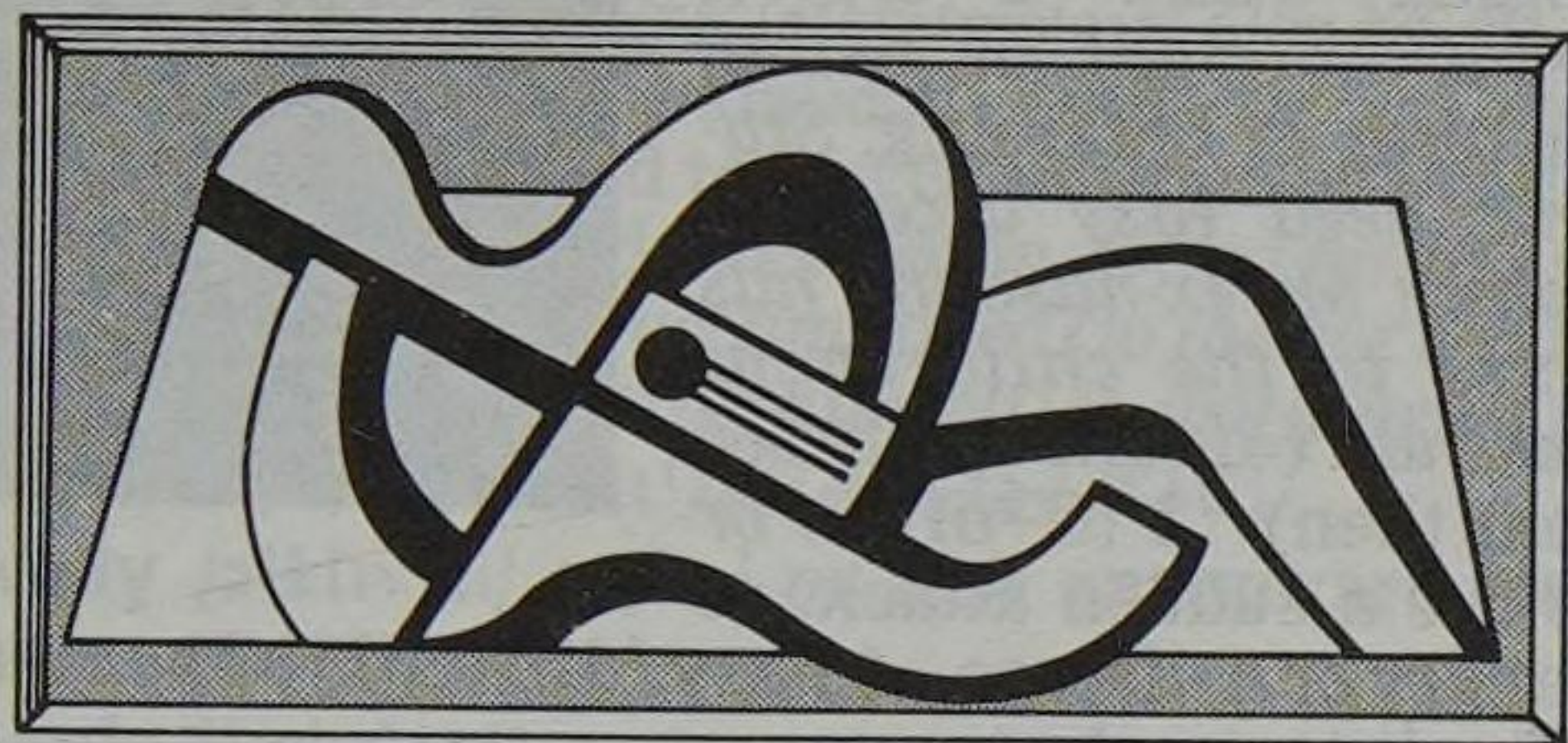
ab-stain /əb'steɪn/ *v* [I (from)] **1** to intentionally not use one's vote: *Five members voted for the proposal, twelve voted against, and three abstained.* **2** to keep oneself from doing something that one enjoys: *to abstain from smoking* —see also ABSTENTION — **er** *n*

ab-ste-mi-ous /əb'stɪmiəs/ *adj* allowing (oneself) only a little food, drink, or pleasure: *an abstemious meal* | *You're being very abstemious today!* — **ly** *adv* — **ness** *n* [U]

ab-sten-tion /əb'stenʃən/ *n* [C;U (from)] the act or an example of abstaining, esp. from voting: *50 votes for, 35 against, and 7 abstentions*

ab-sti-nence /'æbstɪnəns/ *n* [U (from)] the act of keeping away from pleasant things, esp. from alcoholic drink: *enforced abstinence* — **nent** *adj*

abstract



an abstract painting

ab-tract¹ /'æbstrækt/ *adj* **1** existing as a quality or CONCEPT rather than as something real or solid: *Beauty is abstract but a house is not.* —compare CONCRETE¹ (1) **2** general as opposed to particular: *an abstract discussion of the crime problem, without reference to actual cases* **3** (in art, said of paintings, drawings, etc.) not trying to show things as they would be seen by a camera —compare REPRESENTATIONAL

abstract² *n* **1** an abstract painting, drawing, or other work of art **2** [(of)] a shortened form of a statement, speech, etc. **3** in the abstract in general; not related to particular examples or practical experience

ab-tract³ /əb'strækt, æb-/ *v* [T (from)] **1** to make a shortened form of (a statement, speech, etc.) by separating out what is important **2** *euph* to steal

ab-tract-ed /əb'stræktɪd, æb-/ *adj* not noticing what is happening; deep in thought — **ly** *adv*

ab-strac-tion /əb'strækʃən, æb-/ *n* **1** [U] the state of not noticing what is happening; being ABSENT-MINDED: *a look of abstraction* **2** [C] an idea of a quality considered separately from any particular object or case: *A good judge must consider the actual facts of a case as well as the abstraction "justice".*

abstract noun /ɪ... 'n/ *n* a word that names a quality, state, or action: *"Hunger" and "beauty" are examples of abstract nouns.*

ab-struse /əb'stru:s, æb-/ *adj* *fml* difficult to understand: *an abstruse theory* — **ness** *n* [U]

ab-surd /əb'sɜ:d, -'zɜ:d||-ɜ:rd/ *adj* against reason or common sense; clearly false or foolish; RIDICULOUS: *It's (patently) absurd not to wear a coat in such cold weather.* | *He looks absurd in that hat!* — **ly** *adv*: *an absurdly overpriced hotel* — **ity** /əb'sɜ:dɪti, -'zɜ:-||-ɜ:ri-/ *n* [C;U]: *We had to laugh at the absurdity of the situation.*

ABTA /'æbtə/ the Association of British Travel Agents; an organization whose job is to protect customers and make sure that they do not lose money and are not cheated when paying for their holiday. Many travel agencies (TRAVEL AGENCY) and TOUR OPERATORS are members of ABTA.

Ab-u Dha-bi /,æbu: 'dɑ:bi||,ɑ:-/ **1** island and largest EMIRATE of the United Arab Emirates **2** the capital city of the United Arab Emirates

a-bun-dance /ə'bʌndəns/ *n* [S (of);U] a great quantity; plenty: *At the party there was food and drink in abundance.* | *The country has an abundance of skilled workers, but not enough jobs.*

a-bun-dant /ə'bʌndənt/ *adj* more than enough; PLENTIFUL: *The country has abundant supplies of oil and gas.* — **ly** *adv*: *She made it abundantly clear (=very clear) that she wanted me to leave.*

Ab-u Ni-dal /,æbu: ni:'dæl||,ɑ:bu: ni:'dɑ:l/ a Palestinian terrorist organization, named after a wealthy man of the same name, which was responsible for many events including the killing of Jewish CIVILIANS at Rome airport in 1985

a-buse¹ /ə'bju:z/ *v* [T] **1** to say unkind, cruel, or rude things to or about: *She abused him roundly for his neglect.* **2** to put to wrong use; use badly, esp. for one's own advantage: *to abuse one's power* —see MISUSE (USAGE) **3** to treat (someone, esp. a child) in a cruel or immoral way: *The child had been sexually abused.* **4** to physically hurt: *He abuses his wife.*

abuse² /ə'bju:z/ *n* **1** [U] unkind, cruel, or rude words: *He greeted me with a stream of abuse.* | *a term of abuse* | *foul-mouthed abuse* **2** [C;U] wrong use: *I'm afraid the system is open to abuse.* | *the abuse of power/of drugs* **3** [C] an unjust or harmful custom **4** [U] bad or cruel treatment, esp. of children: *hundreds of children at risk from abuse* —see also CHILD ABUSE

Abu Sim-bel /,æbu: 'sɪmbəl||,ɑ:-/ a place on the river Nile in S Egypt where there are two ancient rock temples which were built in about 1250 BC

a-bu-sive /ə'bju:sɪv/ *adj* using or containing unkind, cruel, or rude language: *an abusive letter/person* — **ly** *adv* — **ness** *n* [U]

a-but /ə'bat/ *v*

abut on sthg. *phr v* -tt- [T no pass.] *fml* (of land or buildings) to lie next to or touch on one side: *Their garden abuts on ours.*

a-but-ment /ə'batmənt/ *n* a support, esp. one on which a bridge or arch rests

a-bys-mal /ə'bɪzməl/ *adj* very bad: *The food was abysmal.* | *abysmal weather*

a-byss /ə'bɪs/ *n* a deep bottomless hole: (fig.) *an abyss of despair*

Ab-ys-sin-i-a /,æbɪ'sɪniə/ the former name for Ethiopia — **Abyssinian** *n, adj*

a/c also **A/C**— *written abbrev. for*: ACCOUNT¹ (2–5)

AC /,eɪ 'sɪz-/ **1** *abbrev. for* ALTERNATING CURRENT —compare DC; see also AC/DC **2** *AmE infml* AIR-CONDITIONING: *I'm going to turn on the AC.*

a-ca-cia /ə'keɪfə/ *n* -cias or -cia a mainly tropical tree from which GUM² (1) is obtained

Ac-a-deme /'ækədɪzəm, ,ækə'dɪzəm/ the groves of Academe *quote* a phrase from a work by Horace, now often used humorously to describe the world of education, esp. universities: *It was time to leave the groves of Academe and to look for a job.*

ac-a-de-mi-a /,ækə'dɪmiə/ *n* [U] the world of education, esp. universities: *Professor James had been living in academia for too long to ever be successful in the business world.*

ac-a-dem-ic¹ /,ækə'demɪk-/ *adj* **1** concerning education, esp. college or university level: *They publish academic books.* **2** being or based on subjects that are taught to develop the mind rather than to provide practical skills: *academic studies* —compare TECHNICAL (1,2) **3** not related to practical situations; THEORETICAL: *Where we ought to go for our holidays is a purely academic question because we can't afford a holiday at all!* — **ally** /kli/ *adv*: *children who do well academically* (=in academic subjects)

academic² *n* **1** a college or university teacher. In Britain and the US, academics are sometimes criticized as being people who think only about ideas and theories (THEORY), but do not know very much about the real world or real problems. **2** someone who looks at things in an ACADEMIC¹ (2) way

academic free-dom /,.... 'fɪ-/ *n* [U] the freedom of students, teachers, and educational institutions to express and study any ideas that they want to

academic year /,.... 'i-/ *BrE* || **school year** *AmE* *n* the period of a year in which school, college or university courses run. In Britain and the US the academic year usually begins in September or October and ends in June or July, with holidays at Christmas and Easter. Some schools in the US run **year round** (=all year) with several shorter holidays instead of the long break during the summer.

a-cad-e-mi-cian /ə,kædə'mɪʃən||,ækədə-/ *n* a member of an academy

ac·cad·e·my /ə'kædəmi/ *n* (often *cap.* as part of a name) **1** a society of people interested in the advancement of art, science, or literature, to which members are usu. elected as an honour: *the Hungarian Academy of Science* **2** a school for training in a special art or skill: *a military academy* | *an academy of music*

Academy Award /,... ·' / *n* an OSCAR

A-ca-di-a /ə'keɪdiə/ the name of an area formerly consisting of Nova Scotia and several other parts of Canada and Maine, once settled by the French

a cap·pel·la also **a capella** /,æ kə'pelə||,ɑ: kə-/ *adv, adj* *It* (of singing) without musical instruments: *She stood up and sang a cappella.*

Ac-a-pul-co /,æ kə'pulkəu||,ɑ:kə'pu:l-/ a city on the west coast of Mexico, known as a holiday place for rich and famous people from all over the world

ACAS /'eɪkæs/ Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service; ACAS is an independent British organization working in the field of industrial relations and helping to find a way of dealing with disagreements between management and unions, esp. over pay and conditions at work: *ACAS has been called in to try to end the dispute.*

ac·cede /æk'si:ð, æk-/ *v* [I (to)] *fml* **1** to agree to a suggestion, plan, demand, etc., often after first disagreeing: *In the end she acceded to our request.* **2** to take a high post or position after someone has left it **3** to join a group of people, countries, etc., in an agreement —see also ACCESSION

ac·cel·e·rate /æk'seləreɪt/ *v* **1** [I;T] to (cause to) move faster —opposite **decelerate** **2** [T] *fml* to cause to happen faster or earlier than expected: *accelerated promotion* | *economic policies that have accelerated the decline of manufacturing industry*

ac·cel·e·ra·tion /æk,selə'reɪʃən/ *n* [U] (the rate of) increasing speed: *a car with good acceleration*

ac·cel·e·ra·tor /æk'seləreɪtə/ *n* **1** also **gas pedal** *AmE*— the instrument in a machine or vehicle (esp. a car) which is used to increase its speed: *He put his foot down hard on the accelerator.* —see picture at CAR **2** *tech* || also **atom smasher** *AmE infml* a machine for making PARTICLES (=very small pieces of matter) move very quickly

ac·cent¹ /'æksənt||'æksent/ *n* **1** a particular way of speaking, usu. connected with a country, area, or social class: *He speaks English with a strong German accent.* | *Where are you from? I can't place (=recognize) your accent.* —compare DIALECT

► **CULTURAL NOTE** Many different English accents can be heard in both Britain and the US, and an accent often shows where a person is from. In Britain, an accent often also suggests a person's educational background or social class, with the accent of educated people from southeast England considered the most standard. ◀

2 [(on)] importance given to a word or part of a word by saying it with more force or on a different musical note: *The accent in the word "important" is on the second syllable.* **3** a mark used in writing or printing, esp. above a word or part of a word, to show what kind of sound is needed when it is spoken: *In French there are three possible accents on the vowel "e".* | *an acute accent* **4** [(on) *usu. sing.*] particular importance or interest, an EMPHASIS: *The accent (of the report) is on safety.*

ac·cent² /æk'sent||'æksent/ *v* [T] **1** to pronounce (a word or a part of a word) with an ACCENT¹ (2) **2** to mark (a written word) with an ACCENT¹ (3) **3** to direct attention to; accentuate: *A red belt accents the colour in her dress.* | *French herbs accent the flavour of the meat.*

ac·cen·tu·ate /æk'sentʃueɪt/ *v* [T] **1** to direct attention to; EMPHASIZE: *The dark frame accentuates the brightness of the picture.* **2** to pronounce with great force —**ation** /æk,sentʃu'eɪʃən/ *n* [C;U]

ac·cept /æk'sept/ *v* **1** [I;T] to take or receive (something offered or given), esp. willingly: *The police aren't allowed to accept rewards.* | *He asked her to marry him and she accepted (his offer).* **2** [T] to take or receive as satisfactory or reasonable, often unwillingly: *The company did not accept the report's criticisms.* | *Did she accept your reasons for being late?* | *He accepted her apology very graciously.* | *They accepted responsibility for the accident.* | *The work force has reluctantly agreed to accept a cut in pay.* **3** [T] to recognize as being true or right: *For a long time she could not accept the fact of her husband's death.*

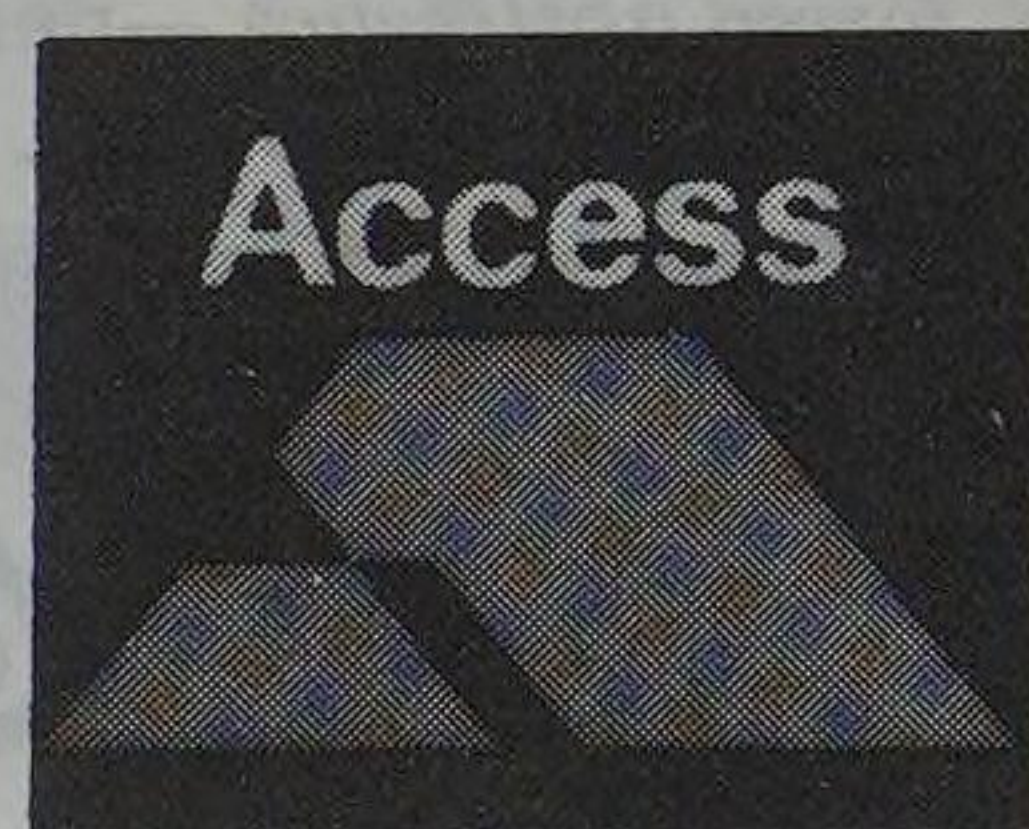
I'm sorry, but I can't accept that. [+that] *It is generally accepted that smoking causes bad health.* | *accepted principles of behaviour* —see REFUSE (USAGE)

ac·cep·ta·ble /æk'septəbəl/ *adj* **1** good enough; satisfactory: *This standard of work is not acceptable; do it again.* **2** that can be allowed; TOLERABLE: *an acceptable level of inflation* | *an acceptable risk* | *behaviour that is not socially acceptable* —opposite **unacceptable** **3** worth receiving; welcome: *an acceptable gift* —**bly** *adv* —**bility** /æk'septə'bɪlɪti/ *n* [U]

ac·cept·ance /æk'septəns/ *n* [C;U] **1** the act of accepting or being accepted **2** favour; approval: *to gain acceptance for one's ideas* **3** (in business) an agreement to pay

ac·cess¹ /'ækses/ *n* **1** [U (to)] means of entering; way in; entrance: *The only means of access to the building is along a muddy track.* **2** [U (to)] means or right of using, reaching, or obtaining: *Students need easy access to books.* | *My ex-husband has access to the children at weekends.* (=is allowed to see them then) **3** [C+of] *lit* or *old use* a sudden attack, as of anger or a disease **4** **easy/difficult of access** *easy/difficult to reach*

the symbol for Access



access² *v* [T] to obtain (stored information) from a computer's memory

Access card /'... ·' / *n* *tdmk* a CREDIT CARD given by British banks to their customers, who use it to obtain money, goods, and services which they pay for later: *Do you take (=accept payment by) Access?* | *I've lost my Access card.* —see CREDIT CARD

ac·ces·si·ble /æk'sesɪbəl/ *adj* [(to, by)] **1** easy to reach, enter, or obtain: *The island is accessible only by boat.* —opposite **inaccessible** **2** easy and friendly to speak to: *A manager should be accessible to his/her staff.* **3** in a form that is easy to understand: *The information ought to be made more accessible.* —**bility** /æk'sesɪ'bɪlɪti/ *n* [U]

ac·ces·sion /æk'sesʃən/ *n* *fml* **1** [U (to)] the act of acceding (ACCEDE) or coming to a high position: *the Queen's accession to the throne* —compare SUCCESSION (3) **2** [C;U (to)] (an) addition to a group or collection: *an important new accession of scientific books to the library* **3** [C;U (to)] agreement, esp. to a demand

ac·ces·so·ry /æk'sesəri/ *n* **1** [*usu. pl.*] something which is not a necessary part of something larger but which makes it more useful, effective, etc.: *car accessories including the roof rack and radio* **2** [*usu. pl.*] the bag, shoes, etc., that complete a woman's clothes; a formal word usually used to describe fashion clothes: *a black dress with matching accessories* **3** [C] also **accessary**—*law* a person who is not present at a crime but who helps someone else in doing it, either before the crime (**accessory before the fact**) or afterwards (**accessory after the fact**): *an accessory to murder*

access time /'... ·' / *n* [U] *tech* the time taken by a computer to find and use a piece of information in its memory; the length of time between asking the computer for information and getting it

ac·ci·dence /'æksɪdəns/ *n* [U] *tech* the rules of grammar which are concerned with changes in the form of words (their INFLECTION) according to their use in a sentence, as in *sing, sang, sung*, or in *body, bodies*

ac·ci·dent /'æksɪdənt/ *n* **1** something, esp. something unpleasant or damaging, that happens unexpectedly or by chance: *I'm afraid I had an accident in the kitchen and broke all the glasses.* | *a bad/serious/fatal accident on the motorway* —see also CHAPTER OF ACCIDENTS **2** something that happened that was not intentional and so cannot be blamed on anyone: *I didn't break it on purpose, Mum, it was an accident!* | *He swears it was an accident.* **3** **by accident** by chance: *I met her purely by accident.* | *The trip was a success, but more by accident than design.* (=not because of good planning) **4** **by accident of** by the chance or fortune of: *wealthy by accident of birth* **5** **accidents will happen** saying a phrase used when there has been an accident, meaning that it is impossible to avoid them and so not worth worrying about them

ac·ci·den·tal /,æksɪ'dentl· / *adj* happening by chance, not

by plan or intention — *~ly adv*: *She walked past and spilled my drink, accidentally on purpose.* (=She pretended that it was an accident, but really she did it on purpose)

accidental death /ˌɪˌkɪdəntəl ˈdeɪθ/ *n* **law** one of the VERDICTS possible at a British INQUEST trying to discover the cause of someone's death

accident-prone /ˌædɪdənt ˈprəʊn/ *adj* (of a person) more likely to have accidents than most people are

ac-claim¹ /əˈkleɪm/ *v* [T (as)] to greet with approval; publicly recognize: *The new drug has been acclaimed as the most important discovery for years.* [+obj+n] *They acclaimed him their leader.*

acclaim² *n* [U] strong expressions of approval and praise: *The book received considerable critical acclaim.*

ac-cla-ma-tion /ˌækləˈmeɪʃən/ *n* [C;U] *fml* loud expressions of approval or welcome

ac-cli-ma-tize also **-tise** *BrE* /əˈklaɪmətaɪz/ also **ac-cli-mate** /əˈklaɪmət/ *v* [I;T (to)] to (cause to) become used to the conditions of weather in a new part of the world: *We lived in Africa for five years, but we never really got acclimatized (to the hot weather).* | (fig.) *He can't acclimatize (himself) to working at night.* — **-tization** /əˈklaɪmətaɪˈzeɪʃən/ *n* [U]

ac-cliv-i-ty /əˈklɪvɪti/ *n* *fml* or *tech* an upward slope — compare DECLIVITY

ac-co-lade /ˈækələɪd/ *n* strong praise and approval: *The film received/won accolades from all the critics.*

ac-com-mo-date /əˈkɒmədeɪt/ *v* [T] *fml* **1** to provide with a place in which to live or stay **2** to have enough space for: *Are there enough shelves to accommodate all our books?* **3** to make changes that take account of the wishes or demands of: *The union has made every possible effort to accommodate the management.* **4** [(to)] to change (esp. oneself) to fit new conditions **5** [(with)] to supply with something that is needed, esp. money: *He asked his uncle to accommodate him till his pay cheque arrived.*

ac-com-mo-dat-ing /əˈkɒmədeɪtɪŋ/ *adj* *fml* apprec willing to help or make changes to suit new conditions; OBLIGING — *~ly adv*

ac-com-mo-da-tion /əˈkɒməˈdeɪʃən/ *n* **1** [U] a place to live or work in; house, flat, hotel room, etc.: *The travel agent fixed up/arranged our accommodation.* | *office accommodation* | *the high cost of rented accommodation in London* **2** [C;U] *fml* the settling of a disagreement: *efforts to come to/reach an accommodation with the US over imports*

accommodation a-gen-cy /ˌəˌkɒməˈdeɪʃən ˌdʒiːnəsi/ *n* (in Britain) an organization which finds houses and flats for people to rent, in return for payment

ac-com-mo-da-tions /əˈkɒməˈdeɪʃənz/ *n* [P] *AmE* **1** lodging, food, and services **2** a seat or place to sleep, esp. on a boat or train: *tourist accommodations on a boat*

ac-com-pa-ni-ment /əˈkɒmpəˈnɪmənt/ *n* [(to)] **1** something which is used or provided with something else, esp. in order to improve it: *A green salad makes a good accompaniment to this dish.* **2** music played at the same time as singing or another instrument: *to play a piano accompaniment* | (fig.) *The election results were announced to the accompaniment of loud cheering.*

ac-com-pa-nist /əˈkɒmpəˈnɪst/ *n* a person who plays a musical accompaniment

ac-com-pa-ny /əˈkɒmpəˈni/ *v* [T] **1** rather *fml* to go with, esp. on a journey: *Let me accompany you to your hotel.* **2** to exist or appear at the same time or same place as: *A series of colour photographs accompanies the text.* **3** to play a musical accompaniment for — see also UNACCOMPANIED

ac-com-plate /əˈkɒmplɪʃ/ *v* [T] a person who helps another person to do wrong; usu. a criminal: *The kidnapper must have had an accomplice.*

ac-com-plish /əˈkɒmplɪʃ/ *v* [T] to succeed in doing; finish successfully; ACHIEVE: *She's accomplished a great deal in the last few weeks.* | *I don't feel our visit really accomplished anything.*

ac-com-plished /əˈkɒmplɪʃt/ *adj* skilled; good at something, esp. something artistic: *an accomplished singer*

ac-com-plish-ment /əˈkɒmplɪʃmənt/ *n* **1**

[C] a skill; something in which one is accomplished: *Being able to play the piano well is one of his many accomplishments.* **2** [U] the act of accomplishing or finishing work completely and successfully **3** [C] something accomplished; achievement: *This is the first house I've ever built — what an accomplishment (it is)!*

ac-cord¹ /əˈkɔːd/ *n* **1** [C;U (with)] *fml* (an) agreement: *The two sides are completely in accord (with each other) on this matter.* **2** **of one's own accord** without being asked or ordered: *The children went to bed of their own accord, because they were so tired.* **3** **with one accord** with everyone expressing their agreement at the same time, either in words or in actions

accord² *v* *fml* **1** [I (with)] to be the same (as); agree: *What you have just said does not accord with what you told us yesterday.* **2** [T+obj(i)+obj(d)] to give or allow: *She was accorded a tremendous welcome at the party conference.*

ac-cord-ance /əˈkɔːdəns/ *n* **in accordance with** in a way that fulfils or agrees with: *In accordance with your orders/your wishes, I cancelled the meeting.*

ac-cord-ing as /əˈkɔːdɪŋ əz, -æz/ *conj* *BrE* *fml* depending on whether

ac-cord-ing-ly /əˈkɔːdɪŋli/ *adv* *fml* **1** in a way suitable to what has been said or what has happened: *Please inform us of your decision and we will act accordingly.* **2** therefore; so: *They asked him to leave the meeting, and accordingly he went.*

according to /əˈkɔːdɪŋ tu/ *prep* **1** as stated or shown by: *According to our records, the books you have borrowed should now be returned to the library.* | *According to George, she's a really good teacher.* **2** in a way that agrees with: *We will be paid according to the amount of work we do.*

▷ **USAGE 1** We use **according to** to show that the information comes from another person or place and not from our own knowledge: *According to these figures, the company is doing well.* It can also be used to suggest that you do not share someone's opinion: *According to George, I owe him £10.* (=but I don't agree) **2** We do not use **according to** with words like **opinion** or **view**. Compare: *According to the management ...* | *In the management's opinion/view ...* <

ac-cord-ion¹ /əˈkɔːdɪən/ *n* a musical instrument that is pressed in from each side so that the air in the middle part is forced through holes that can be opened and closed to produce different sounds. Accordion music is often played in films when the scene is in France, esp. Paris, and British people think of the accordion as a typically French musical instrument. In the US people think of the accordion in connection with old-fashioned dance music.

accordion² *adj* *AmE* having many folds like those of an accordion: *an accordion file* (=one that has sides which fold in or out to make it larger or smaller)

ac-cost /əˈkɒst/ *v* [T] to go up to and speak to (someone, esp. a stranger), often threateningly or with the offer of sex: *A man accosted me in the street and asked for money.*

ac-count¹ /əˈkaʊnt/ *n* **1** [C (of)] a written or spoken report; description: *Give us your/an account of what happened.* | *a detailed account of the proceedings* | *He is a very good pianist, by all accounts.* (=according to what everyone says) | (fig.) *I thought Kevin gave a good account of himself* (=performed well) *in today's game.* **2** a sum of money kept in a bank, BUILDING SOCIETY, etc., which may be added to and taken from: *My salary is paid directly into my bank account.* | *Have you got an account with us?* — see also CHECKING ACCOUNT, CURRENT ACCOUNT, DEPOSIT ACCOUNT **3** *usu. pl.* a record or statement of money received and paid out, usually by a bank or business: *The accounts show that business is improving.* | *to audit the accounts* — see also ACCOUNTANT, EXPENSE ACCOUNT **4** a CREDIT ACCOUNT: *Please put the shoes on my account/charge the shoes to my account.* **5** a statement of money owed: *Please settle your account immediately.* (=pay what you owe) **6** a customer, esp. one who has regular dealings with a company: *Our sales manager has secured several big accounts recently.* **7** **bring/call someone to account (for):** a to cause or force someone to give an explanation (of) b to punish someone (for) **8** **of great/no/some account** of great/no/some importance **9** **on account of** *fml* because of: *Why did you do it? Was it on account of what I said yesterday?* **10** **on no**

account/not on any account not for any reason: *On no account must you tell him.* **11 on one's own account:** **a** for one's own advantage **b** at one's own risk **c** by oneself **12 on someone's account** out of consideration for someone's wishes **13 take account of something/take something into account** to give proper consideration to a fact, situation, etc., when making a judgment or decision: *His exam results were not very good, but we must take into account his long illness.* | *The teachers promised to take account of the wishes of the parents before making any changes.* | *Their estimate of the cost takes no account of inflation.* | *Your objections will be taken into account.* **14 to (good) account** so as to bring advantage or profit: *She put/turned her computing skills to good account.*

account² *v* [T+obj+n/adj] *fml* to consider: *He was accounted a wise man.*

account for sthg. *phr v* [T] **1** to give or be a satisfactory explanation for: *The defendant couldn't account for the fact that the money was found in his house.* [+v-ing] *How do you account for losing five games in a row?* — compare ANSWER² **for** (1); see also UNACCOUNTABLE **2** [(to)] to provide a satisfactory record, esp. of money received and paid out: *He has to account to the chairman for how he spends the company's money.* — compare ANSWER² **for** (1) **3** to be the cause or origin of: *North Sea oil accounts for a high proportion of our export earnings.* **4 infml**, becoming rare to kill, shoot, or catch **5 There's no accounting for tastes infml** (said usu. when one disagrees with another person's judgment) it is impossible to explain why different people like different things

ac-coun-ta-bil-i-ty /əˈkaʊntəˈbɪlɪti/ *n* [U] the condition or quality of being accountable: *demands for an increase in police accountability*

ac-coun-ta-ble /əˈkaʊntəbəl/ *adj* [F (to, for)] responsible; having to give an explanation for one's actions; ANSWERABLE: *If anything happens to the car, I will hold you accountable.* | *Should the police be more accountable to the public?* — compare UNACCOUNTABLE

ac-coun-tan-cy /əˈkaʊntənsi/ also **ac-coun-ting** /əˈkaʊntɪŋ/ *AmE— n* [U] the work or job of an accountant: *a degree in accountancy*

ac-coun-tant /əˈkaʊntənt/ *n* a person whose job is to control and examine the FINANCIAL accounts of businesses or people. In Britain, people often make jokes about accountants because they are considered to be very boring and dull.

ac-cou-tre-ments /əˈkuːtrɪmənts/ also **-terments** /əˈkʊrtəmənts/ *AmE— n* [P] equipment, esp. everything a soldier carries, except his clothes and weapons

Ac-cra /əˈkraː/ the capital city of Ghana

ac-cred-it-ed /əˈkredɪtɪd/ *adj* **1** [(to)] officially representing one's government in a foreign country, esp. as an AMBASSADOR **2** having the power to act for an organization: *an accredited representative of the firm* **3** officially recognized as reaching a certain standard or quality: *accredited milk from a herd of healthy cows* | *an accredited university*

ac-cre-tion /əˈkriːʃən/ *n* [C;U (to)] *fml* (an) increase by natural growth or by the gradual addition of matter on the outside: *towers and other accretions to the castle*

ac-crue /əˈkruː/ *v fml* **1** [I;T] to become bigger or more by addition: *Interest accrues on a bank account.* | *You should accrue more interest this way.* **2** [I(to)] to come as a gain or additional advantage: *Great wealth will accrue to her when she marries the duke.* — **crual** *n* [U]

acct *written abbrev. for:* ACCOUNT¹ (2–5)

ac-cu-mu-late /əˈkjuːmjʊleɪt/ *v* [I;T] to make or become greater in quantity or size, esp. over a long period; collect or grow into a mass: *He gradually accumulated an impressive collection of paintings.* — see GATHER (USAGE) — **-lation** /əˈkjuːmjʊˈleɪʃən/ *n* [C;U]: *an accumulation of work while I was ill*

ac-cu-mu-la-tive /əˈkjuːmjʊlətɪv/ *adj fml* CUMULATIVE — **ly** *adv*

ac-cu-mu-la-tor /əˈkjuːmjʊleɪtə/ *n* **1** a part of a computer where numbers are stored **2 esp. BrE** || usu. **storage battery** *AmE* a type of BATTERY which can take in new supplies of electricity so that it has enough power to keep working **3 BrE** a set of BETS on four or more horse races. The money won on each race is added to the money put on the next race until all the bets have been won or one is lost.

ac-cu-ra-cy /ˈækjʊrəsi/ *n* [U] the quality of being accurate; exactness or correctness: *the accuracy of his account* | *to throw darts with pinpoint accuracy*

ac-cu-rate /ˈækjʊrət/ *adj* exactly correct: *Her report of what happened was accurate in every detail/was an accurate reflection of the facts.* | *Is the station clock accurate?* — opposite **inaccurate** — **ly** *adv*

ac-curs-ed /əˈkɜːsɪd, əˈkɜːst/ *also ac-curst* /əˈkɜːst/ *lit— adj* **1** *lit* under a curse **2** hateful because causing bad fortune or great trouble

ac-cu-sa-tion /ˈækjʊˈzeɪʃən/ *n* [C;U] (a statement) accusing someone of doing wrong or of breaking the law: [+that] *How do you answer the accusation that your policies have caused high unemployment?* | *You shouldn't make wild accusations without any evidence.*

ac-cu-sa-tive /əˈkjuːzətɪv/ *n tech* a particular form of a noun in certain languages, such as Latin, Greek, and German, which shows that the noun is the DIRECT OBJECT of a verb — **accusative** *adj*

ac-cu-sa-to-ry /əˈkjuːzətəri/ *adj esp. AmE* expressing accusation: *an accusatory remark* | *an accusatory attitude*

ac-cuse /əˈkjuːz/ *v* [T (of)] to charge (someone) with doing wrong or breaking the law: *He was accused of murder.* | *Are you accusing me of cheating?* | *The report accused the government of shirking its responsibilities.* — **cuser** *n* — **-cusingly** *adv*: *He looked at her accusingly.*

ac-cused /əˈkjuːzd/ *adj* charged with doing something wrong, a crime, etc.: *The company stands accused of failing to safeguard the public.* [also *n*, the+C, pl. **accused**] *The accused (man) was asked to give his name.* | *Several of the accused were found guilty.*

ac-cus-tom /əˈkʌstəm/ *v* [T (to)] to make used to: *to accustom oneself to a new job*

ac-cus-tomed /əˈkʌstəmd/ *adj* **1** [F+to] in the habit of; used to: *I'm not accustomed to getting up so early.* **2** [A no comp.] regular; usual: *sitting in her accustomed place at the head of the table*

AC/DC /ˌeɪ siː ˈdiː siː/ *adj* [F] *sl* BISEXUAL²: *I think he's a bit AC/DC.*

ace¹ /eɪs/ *n* **1** [(of)] a CARD¹ (1) that has a single mark or spot and usu. has the highest or the lowest value — see CARDS (USAGE) **2 infml** a person of the highest skill in the stated activity: *an ace at chess* **3** (in tennis and VOLLEYBALL) a very fast and strong SERVE (=beginning shot) that the opponent cannot hit back **4 an ace in the hole** *AmE infml* something that will give a person an advantage or help when it is needed **5 within an ace of infml** very close to (a condition): *within an ace of victory/death*

ace² *adj infml* very good or very skilled; excellent: *an ace skier* | *Their new record is really ace.*

ace³ *v* [T] *AmE infml* to do (something) very well: *I think I aced the exam, but the interview was murder.*

a-cer-bic /əˈsɜːbɪk/ *adj* (of a person or manner) clever in a rather cruel way: *her acerbic wit*

a-cer-bi-ty /əˈsɜːbɪti/ *n* [U] *fml* bitterness; sourness

ac-e-tate /ˈæsɪteɪt/ *n* [U] a chemical made from acetic acid — see also CELLULOSE (2)

a-ce-tic /əˈsɪtɪk/ *adj* of, concerning, or producing VINEGAR or acetic acid

acetic ac-id /ˌæ.sɪk ˈiːd/ *n* [U] the acid in VINEGAR (=a bitter liquid made from wine or beer)

a-cet-y-lene /əˈsetɪlɪn/ *n* [U] a gas which burns with a very bright flame and is used in certain types of lamp and in cutting and joining pieces of metal

ache¹ /eɪk/ *v* [I] **1** to have or suffer a continuous, but not violent, pain: *I ache all over.* | *My head aches.* **2** [+for/to-v] to have an extremely strong desire: *aching for freedom* | (*infml*) *I'm aching to tell them the news.*

ache² *n* (often in comb.) a continuous, but not violent, pain: *I've got a bit of an ache in my back.* | *Take no notice of him complaining — he's always full of little aches and pains.* | *a headache* | (*fig.*) *heartache* — compare PAIN¹

▷ USAGE **1** Note the fixed phrase **aches and pains**. **2** Nouns formed from **ache** are treated as uncountable in British English when they mean a condition or a state: *Chocolate gives me toothache.* | *She suffers from backache.* When they mean a single attack of pain, they can be either countable or uncountable: *She often*

a·cre /'eɪkər/ *n* a unit for measuring area: *They own 200 acres of farmland.* | *a 200-acre farm* – see TABLE 2

a·cre·age /'eɪkərɪdʒ/ *n* [S;U] the area of a piece of land measured in acres

ac·rid /'ækrɪd/ *adj* (of taste or smell) very bitter; causing a stinging sensation: *the acrid smell of burning wood* | (fig.) *an acrid remark*

ac·ri·mo·ny /'ækrɪməni/ *n* [U] bitterness, as of manner or language: *They parted without acrimony.* —**ni·ous** /'ækrɪ'məniəs/ *adj*: *an acrimonious dispute* —**ni·ously** *adv*

ac·ro·bat /'ækrəbæt/ *n* a person skilled in walking on ropes or wires, balancing, walking on their hands, etc., esp. at a CIRCUS

ac·ro·bat·ic /'ækrə'bætɪk/ *adj* of or like an acrobat; moving or changing position quickly and easily, esp. in the air — **ally** /kli/ *adv*

ac·ro·bat·ics /'ækrə'bætɪks/ *n* **1** [U] the art and tricks of an acrobat **2** [P] a group of acrobatic tricks considered as a performance

ac·ro·nym /'ækrənɪm/ *n* a word made up from the first letters of the name of something, such as NATO from North Atlantic Treaty Organization

ac·ro·pho·bi·a /'ækrə'fəʊbiə/ *n* [U] a fear of high places

A·crop·o·lis /ə'krɒpəlɪs/ *n* [U] the central area and highest point in the ancient Greek city of Athens, containing important religious and military buildings. The Acropolis is still standing and is visited by many tourists.

a·cross /ə'krɒs/ *adv, prep* **1** from one side to the other (of): *The stream is two metres across.* | *They built a bridge across the river.* | *He lay across the bed.* **2** to or on the opposite side (of): *Can you jump across?* | *They live just across the road (from us).* | *Their house is just across from (=opposite) ours.* | *I helped the old lady across the road. (=helped her to cross it)* **3** so as to cross: *The two lines cut across each other.*

▷ **USAGE** The prepositions **across** and **over** are both used to show movement from one side to another: *She drove across/over the bridge.* If there is an idea of crossing something high, **over** is used: *She climbed over the fence.* If there is an idea of crossing a level surface, **across** is usually better: *He walked across the stage and bowed to the audience.* ◁

a·cross·the·board /'ækrɒsθə'bo:rd/ *adj* [A] influencing or having effects on people or things of all types or at every level, esp. within a business or industry: *an across-the-board pay rise* | *a 25% across-the-board cut in military spending* — **across-the-board** *adv*: *Share prices this week have fallen by an average of 5% across-the-board.*

a·cros·tic /ə'krɒstɪk/ *n* a set of words or lines (often of a poem), written one below the other, in which particular sets of letters (such as the first letter of each line) form a word or phrase

a·cryl·ic /ə'krɪlɪk/ *n* [C;U] a chemical substance used in paints and for making a threadlike material (**acrylic fibre**) used for clothes. Clothes made of acrylic are usu. cheaper than clothes made of wool or cotton.

act /ækt/ *v* **1** [I (as, on, for)] to do something; take action: *The council must act quickly, before more people are killed on that road.* | *She acted on our suggestion. (=did what we suggested)* | *a lawyer acting for (=in the interests of) Mr Miller* | *A trained dog can act as (=fulfil the purpose of) a guide to a blind person.* —see also **ACTING** **2** [I (on, upon)] to produce an effect; work: *Does the drug take long to act (on the nerve centres)?* **3** a [I+adv/prep] to behave as stated: *He acted as if he'd never seen me before.* | *The report said that the doctor had acted correctly/very responsibly.* **b** [L+adj] *infml* to behave so as to seem: *Don't act so stupid!* **4** [I;T] to represent (a part in a play or film); perform, esp. on the stage: *Olivier is acting (the part of Othello) tonight.* | *I can't take her seriously because she always seems to be acting. (=behaving as if she is in a play)* | (fig.) *He's always acting the experienced man who has seen everything.* —see also **ACTING**, **ACTOR**, **ACTRESS**, **PLAY-ACT** **5** **act your age** to behave in an adult way rather than a childish way

act sthg. ↔ **out** *phr v* [T] to express (thoughts, unconscious fears, etc.) in actions and behaviour, rather than in words: *a chance to act out one's fantasies*

act up also **play up** *BrE* — *phr v* [I] *infml* to behave or perform badly: *My old car is always acting up.*

act *n* **1** *fml* something that someone has done; an action of a particular kind: *an act of great generosity/courage* |

This despicable act will not go unpunished. | *a right wing group responsible for several acts of terrorism* —see **USAGE** **2** (often *cap.*) a law made by a parliament or similar body: *The drug was banned by an act of parliament.* | *a right granted under the Shops and Factories Act, 1978* | *lobbying to amend the Gun Control Act* **3** (often *cap.*) one of the main divisions of a stage play: *Hamlet kills the king in Act 5, Scene 2.* | *at the end of the first act* **4** one of a number of short events in a theatre or CIRCUS performance: *The next act will be a snake charmer.* **5** [*usu. sing.*] *infml* an example of insincere behaviour used to influence people's feelings: *Don't be taken in by his flattery — it's just an act/he's just putting on an act.* **6** **get in on the act** *infml* to begin to take part in an activity that someone else has started, esp. in order to share in any advantages that may come as a result **7** **get one's act together** *infml* to begin to work together in an effective way: *little chance of the divided opposition parties getting their act together* **8** **in the act (of doing)** while actually doing; at the moment of doing (esp. something bad): *I caught him in the act of reading my private letters.*

▷ **USAGE** Compare **act** and **action**. **1** **Action** used as a singular countable noun has almost the same meaning as **act**: *a kind act/action*. **2** Certain fixed phrases use **act** and not **action**: *an act of cruelty/mercy/kindness* | *caught in the act of stealing*. ◁

ACT /'eɪ sɪ: 'ti:/ see AMERICAN CONSERVATORY THEATRE

act·ing ¹ /'æktɪŋ/ *adj* [A] appointed to carry out the duties of an office or position for a short time: *Our director is in hospital, but the acting director can see you.*

acting ² *n* [U] the art or profession of representing a character, esp. in a play or for a film or on television

ac·tion /'æksən/ *n* **1** [U] the fact or process of doing things, with the intention of gaining a desired result: *The police had to take firm action to deal with the riots.* | *to formulate a plan of action* | *to urge strike action* | *We're tired of talking about the problem — now is the time for action!* | **an action-packed drama** (=full of exciting action) **2** [C] something done; a DEED: *His prompt action probably saved her life.* | *His suicide attempt was the action of (=an action typical of) a desperate man.* —see **ACT** ² (**USAGE**) **3** [U] effect: *Photographs are produced by the action of light on film.* **4** [*the*] the main events in a play or book: *The action takes place in a mountain village.* **5** [C;U] fighting or a fight between armies or navies: *The action lasted five hours.* | *Many men were killed in action.* **6** [C] a charge or a matter for consideration by a court of law: *If he doesn't pay us soon we'll have to bring an action against him.* | *a libel action* **7** [S] the way in which something moves or works: *The horse had a fine jumping action.* | *Today we'll study the action of the heart.* **8** [C *usu. sing.*] the moving parts of a machine or instrument: *The action of this piano is becoming stiff.* **9** **action!** (said by film DIRECTORS when they are just about to begin filming a scene) **10** **actions speak louder than words** saying it is easier to see what someone is like or what they feel about something by what they do, rather than by what they say **11** **in/into action** in/into operation or a typical activity: *He is a very good tennis player; you ought to see him in action.* **12** **out of action** unable to move, operate, etc.: *The storm put the telephones out of action.* —see also **INDUSTRIAL ACTION** **13** **piece of the action** *AmE, infml* — a share of the profits or benefits of an action; in films, often said by criminals planning a crime: *Do you want a piece of the action?* **14** **where the action is** *AmE, infml* — where the decisions are made, or where exciting things are happening: *I want to be where the action is!*

ac·tio·na·ble /'æksənəbəl/ *adj* giving enough cause for a charge in a court of law: *I regard these allegations as actionable.*

action fig·ure /'æksən'fɪgʃə/ *n* a doll with legs and arms that move. The advertisers say "action figure" instead of "doll" because the figures are usu. played with by boys, in games about war or adventure. —see **CULTURAL NOTE** at **DOLL**

Action Man /'æksən'mæn/ *n* **1** *tdmk* a doll dressed as a soldier and played with usu. by boys **2** (used esp. by British newspapers) a man who has an exciting and dangerous style of life: *His Action Man image has always concealed a more complex man.*

action re·play /'æksən'reɪ/ *BrE* || **instant replay** *AmE* — *n* a

recording of a piece of action on television, esp. in a game of sport, that is shown again immediately after it happens

action sta-tions /'.., .. / also **battle stations** *AmE*— *interj* (an order to soldiers, sailors, etc., to take up positions ready for battle or other urgent action)

ac-tiv-ate /'æktɪveɪt/ *v* [T] **1** to make (esp. an electrical system) active; bring into use: *Treading on any part of this floor activates the alarm system.* **2** *tech* to cause (a chemical action) to happen more quickly, as by heating **3** *tech* to make (something) RADIOACTIVE **4** *tech* to make (SEWAGE) pure by passing air through it —**ation** /,æktɪ'veɪʃən/ *n* [U]

ac-tive¹ /'æktɪv/ *adj* **1** doing things or always ready to do things; able or ready to take action: *Although he's over 80 he's still very active.* | *an active member of the club who goes to every meeting* | *soldiers who are abroad on active service* (=actually fighting) **2** able to produce the typical effects or act in the typical way: *an active volcano* | *Don't touch it! The bomb mechanism is still active!* — opposite **inactive** **3** [*no comp.*] *tech* (of a verb or sentence) having the person or thing doing the action as the subject. In *The boy kicked the ball*, "kicked" is an active verb. —compare **PASSIVE**¹ (2) **4** **active duty** *AmE* (in the military) full-time employment by the armed forces, as compared with **RETIREMENT**: *He's still on active duty.* — **~ly** *adv*

active² also **active voice** /, .. ' / — *n* *tech* [*the+S*] the active form of a verb: *"The boy kicked the ball" is in the active.* —compare **PASSIVE**²

ac-tiv-ist /'æktɪvɪst/ *n* sometimes *derog* a person taking a very active part, esp. in a political movement: *party activists*

ac-tiv-i-ty /æk'tɪvɪti/ *n* **1** [U] movement or action: *There's been a lot of activity in the town centre today.* | *a sudden rush/flurry of activity on the stock market* | *political/industrial activity* —opposite **inactivity** **2** [*C often pl.*] something that is done or is being done, esp. for interest or pleasure: *The centre provides facilities for a whole range of leisure activities.* | *classroom activities* | *a government that supports terrorist activities*

act of God /, .. ' / *n* **acts of God** a natural event such as a violent storm or flood, which can be neither prevented nor controlled. Acts of God sometimes change the conditions of certain business contracts or insurance policies (**POLICY**).

Act of Par-li-a-ment /, .. '... / *n* a law passed by the British government

Act of U-nion /, .. '... / [*the*] **1** the union of the parliaments of England and Scotland in 1707 **2** the similar union of Ireland with Great Britain in 1800

act of wor-ship /, .. '... / *n* **acts of worship** an example of the way in which followers of any given religion pay their respects to their god or gods

ac-tor /'æktər/ *n* a person who acts in a play or film or on television: *a good actor*

Actors' Eq-ui-ty As-so-ci-a-tion /, .. '... .., .. / **EQUITY** (2)

Actors' Stu-di-o /'.., ... /, **The** an institution for training actors established in New York in 1947 which became famous for the **METHOD** school of acting and influenced many actors including Marlon Brando and James Dean

ac-tress /'æktɪs/ *n* **1** a woman who acts in a play or film or on television **2** **as the actress said to the bishop** *BrE* (a phrase said when someone has said something that could be understood as completely harmless, but which could be understood as talking about sex)

ac-tu-al /'æktʃuəl/ *adj* [*A no comp.*] existing as a real fact: *He forecast that the repairs would cost £2000, but the actual cost was a lot less.* **In actual fact** (=really) *it was quite cheap.* | *He told the newspapermen about the conversation, but would not play them the actual tape of it.* | *No, I'm not joking; those were her actual words.* | *a survey of the problems, both actual and potential* | *a big difference between the opinion polls and the actual election results*

ac-tu-al-i-ty /,æktʃu'ælɪti/ *n* *fml* **1** [U] the state of being real; existence **2** [*C usu. pl.*] something that is real; a fact

ac-tu-al-ly /'æktʃuəli, -tʃəli/ *adv* **1** in actual fact; really: *She says it's a good film, though she hasn't actually seen it.* | *Yes, I know he looks very young, but he's actually 45.* | (showing surprise) *He not only invited me in but he actually offered me a drink!* | *For the first time in years, the*

rate of inflation has actually fallen. **2** (used in conversation, sometimes when one is disagreeing or complaining, but often without any real meaning): *You actually owe me a little more than this.* | "Yes, she's very nice." "Well, actually, I don't like her very much." | *Perhaps I will stay up and watch the film. Actually, I think I'll just go to bed.*

▷ **USAGE 1** **Actually** (and **actual**) does not mean "at the present time" in English. Compare "Have you ever met Simon?" "Actually I met him two years ago." and "Is the company doing well?" "Yes. It's currently doing very well. It's doing very well at present." **2** In conversation, **actually** can be used to soften what you are saying, esp. if you are correcting someone, disagreeing, or complaining: "Happy Birthday, Tom." "Well, actually my birthday was yesterday." But it can be used with the opposite effect, if you speak with sarcasm: *I didn't ask your opinion, actually.* ◁

ac-tu-a-ry /'æktʃuəri||-tʃuəri/ *n* a person who advises insurance companies on how much to charge for insurance, after considering the risks of fire, death, etc. —**arial** /,æktʃu'eəriəl/ *adj*

ac-tu-ate /'æktʃueɪt/ *v* [*often pass.*] *fml* to cause to act; **ACTIVATE** OR **MOTIVATE**: *He is actuated not by kindness but by ambition.*

Act-Up /'.. / an organization formed in the US in the 1980s and now operating also in Britain which protests against unfair treatment of people with AIDS, usu. in ways that attract attention from the **MEDIA** and ordinary people: *an Act-Up demonstration*

a-cu-i-ty /ə'kju:ɪti/ *n* [U] *fml* fineness or sharpness, esp. of the mind or the senses of sight or hearing

ac-u-men /'ækjʊmən, ə'kju:mən/ *n* [U] *fml* ability to think and judge quickly and well: *business/political acumen*

ac-u-pres-sure /'ækjʊpreʃə/ *n* [U] the method of stopping pain and other illnesses, which is similar to acupuncture but which uses pressure instead of needles —compare **SHIATSU**

ac-u-punc-ture /'ækjʊ,pʌŋktʃə/ *n* [U] the method of stopping pain and curing diseases by putting special needles into certain parts of the body, used first in China. Acupuncture is not generally accepted as an effective medical treatment in Britain or the US, but is used esp. by people interested in **ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE**. —compare **SHIATSU**

a-cute /ə'kju:t/ *adj* **1** (of the senses) able to notice small differences; working very well; sharp: *Dogs have an acute sense of smell.* | *She has very acute hearing.* **2** showing an ability to understand things clearly and deeply; **PENETRATING**: *an acute analysis of the political situation* **3** severe; very great: *acute pain* | *an acute shortage of water* **4** *tech* (of a disease) coming quickly to a dangerous condition —compare **CHRONIC** (1) **5** *tech* (of an angle) less than 90 degrees —compare **OBTUSE** (2), and see picture at **ANGLE** **6** [A] (of an **ACCENT** put above a letter to show pronunciation) being the mark over é —compare **CIRCUMFLEX**, **GRAVE**³ — **~ly** *adv*: *The president is acutely conscious of the need for more doctors and nurses.* | *acutely embarrassing* — **~ness** *n* [U]

ad /æd/ *n* *infml* an advertisement —see also **CLASSIFIED AD**

AD /,eɪ 'dɪ: / *abbrev. for*: Anno Domini; (in the year) since the birth of Christ: *in 1066 AD* —see **BC** (**USAGE**)

ad-age /'ædɪdʒ/ *n* an old wise phrase; **PROVERB**

a-da-gio /ə'dɑ:dʒəʊ/ *adj, adv, n* (a piece of music) played slowly

A-dair /ə'deə/ , **Red** an American fire-fighter known esp. for his experience and skill at putting out oil fires

Ad-am¹ /'ædəm/ **1** in the Jewish and Christian religions and in Islam, the first man. According to the Bible, Adam lived in the Garden of Eden with Eve, the first woman. —see also **FALL** —see colour picture on page 424 **2** **not know someone from Adam** *infml* to have no idea who someone is

Adam², **Rob-ert** /'rɒbət||'rɑ:bət/ (1728–1792) a Scottish **ARCHITECT** who drew up plans for many famous houses in England and after whom a style of furniture is named

ad-a-mant /'ædəmənt/ *adj* *fml* (of a person or behaviour) firm and immovable in purpose: *I tried to talk her out of it, but she was adamant.* [+*that*] *He was (completely) adamant that they should go.* — **~ly** *adv*

Ad-ams /'ædəmz/, **An-sel** /'ænsəl/ (1902–84) an American photographer known esp. for his photographs of the scenery of the West of the US

Adams, John (1735–1826) the second president of the US and an influential political leader of the movement towards independence from the British

Adams, John Quin-cy /dʒɒn 'kwɪnsɪdʒən/ (1767–1848) the 6th president of the US, son of John Adams, who helped to prepare the MONROE DOCTRINE

Adams, Sam-u-el /'sæmjʊəl/ (1722–1803) an American politician and writer who was active and influential in the movement towards independence from the British

Adam's ale /,.. 'ɪ/ *n* [U] *humor* water as a drink (from the idea that Adam, the first man, would only have had water to drink)

Adam's ap-ple /,.. 'ɪ..||'ɪ.. ,../ *n* that part at the front of the throat that is seen to move when a person, esp. a man, talks or swallows

Adam Smith In-sti-tute /,.. 'ɪ.. ,.../ [*the*] a right wing British Conservative Party organization which encourages ideas of the FREE MARKET. It is named after the ECONOMIST Adam Smith.

a-dapt /ə'dæpt/ *v* [I;T (to, for)] to make or become suitable for new needs or different conditions: *He adapted an old car engine to fit his boat.* | *When we moved to France, the children adapted (to the change) very well.* | *I'm afraid he can't adapt to the idea of having a woman as his boss.* — compare ADJUST

a-dap-ta-ble /ə'dæptəbəl/ *adj* often *apprec* able to change so as to be suitable for new needs or different conditions: *I'm sure she'll cope with the changes very well; she's very adaptable.* — **bility** /ə'dæptə'bɪlɪti/ *n* [U]

ad-ap-ta-tion /,ædæp'teɪʃən/ *n* [C;U] the act or an example of adapting: *an adaptation of her play for radio*

a-dapt-er, -or /ə'dæptər/ *n* **1** a person or thing that adapts **2** a PLUG that makes it possible to use more than one piece of electrical equipment from a single SOCKET (=electricity supply point)

ADC /,.. 'ɪ/ *abbrev. for:* AIDE-DE-CAMP

add /æd/ *v* **1** [T (to)] to put together with something else so as to increase the number, size, or importance: *Add a few more names to the list.* | *Mix the flour and butter together, then add the sugar.* | *Would you like to add anything to what I've said, John?* | *The decision to buy this weapon will add at least £5 billion to the defence budget.* —see also ADDED **2** [I;T (to, TOGETHER, UP)] to join (numbers, or amounts) so as to find the total: *If you add 5 and to 3 you get 8.* | *Add up these figures for me, please.* —compare SUBTRACT **3** [T+that; obj] to say also: *Almost as an afterthought, he added that they were very pleased with the result.* **4** **add fuel to the fire** *infml* to make a difficult situation even worse, esp. by making someone feel more strongly about something: *Her tactless remarks just added fuel to the fire.* **5** **add insult to injury** to make matters even worse, esp. by causing annoyance as well as harm

add to sthg. *phr v* [T] to increase: *The rise in electricity costs has added to our difficulties.* —compare DETRACT from

add up *phr v* [I not in progressive forms] *infml* to make sense; form a likely or believable explanation: *The facts just don't add up.*

add up to *phr v* [T not in progressive forms] to amount to: *With a meal included in the cost of the ticket, it all adds up to a really good evening's entertainment.*

Ad-dams Fam-i-ly /'ædəmz ,fæməli/ [*the*] a group of characters made originally by Charles Addams in CARTOONS who later appeared in a television programme and a film. They are a strange family who wear unusual clothes, are very interested in death, and have abilities to do things that ordinary people cannot do.

ad-ded /'ædɪd/ *adj* [A] existing in addition to what is usual or expected; further: *The new system is not only cheaper, but has the added advantage of being much faster than the old one.*

added val-ue /,.. 'ɪ../ *n* [U] **1** the amount by which the value of the product is increased at each stage of its making **2** things added to a basic article during the making which increase its value

ad-den-dum /ə'dendəm/ *n* -**da** /də/ *tech* something that is added or is to be added, as at the end of a speech or book

ad-der /'ædər/ *n* **1** a small poisonous snake of northern Europe and northern Asia **2** any of several non-poisonous North American snakes

ad-dict /'ædɪkt/ *n* a person who is unable to free themselves from a harmful habit, esp. of taking drugs: *a heroin addict* | (fig.) *At the age of 10, he's already a confirmed television addict.*

ad-dic-ted /ə'dɪktɪd/ *adj* [F (to)] dependent on something, esp. a drug; unable to stop having or taking: *It doesn't take long to become addicted to these drugs.* | (fig.) *My children are hopelessly/absolutely addicted to television.*

ad-dic-tion /ə'dɪkʃən/ *n* [C;U] the state of being addicted or a habit to which one is addicted: *the growing problem of heroin addiction among young people*

ad-dic-tive /ə'dɪktɪv/ *adj* (esp. of drugs) causing addiction; habit-forming —opposite **non-addictive**

Ad-dis Ab-a-ba /,ædɪs 'æbəbə/ the capital city of Ethiopia

Ad-di-son /'ædɪsən/ , **Joseph** (1672–1719) an English writer, best known for the ESSAYS he wrote in *The Tatler* and *The Spectator*

ad-di-tion /ə'dɪʃən/ *n* **1** [U] the act of adding, esp. of adding numbers together —compare SUBTRACTION **2** [C (to)] something added: *Additions are made to the list from time to time.* | *Congratulations! I hear there's to be an addition to the family!* (=a new baby) | *a last-minute addition to the programme for the President's visit* **3** *AmE* a room or part of a building which is added to the main building: *We must get a new carpet for the addition.* **4** **in addition (to)** as well (as); besides: *In addition to giving a general introduction to computers, the course also provides practical experience.*

ad-di-tion-al /ə'dɪʃənəl/ *adj* beyond what is usual; added: *An additional charge is made for heavy bags.* | *one of the additional requirements* | *additional evidence* — **ly** *adv*

ad-di-tive /'ædɪtɪv/ *n* a substance, esp. a chemical one, added in small quantities to something else to add colour or taste or to make it last longer: *additive-free foods* —see also FOOD ADDITIVE

ad-dled /'ædlɪd/ *adj* **1** (of an egg) having gone bad **2** *infml* (of someone's brain) having become confused

add-on /'ɪ.. / *n* a piece of equipment that can be connected to a computer, such as a DISK DRIVE or a MODEM, that increases its usefulness —compare PERIPHERAL **2**

ad-dress¹ /ə'dres||ə'dres, 'ædres/ *n* **1** the number of the building, name of the street and town, etc., where a person lives or works, esp. when written on a letter or parcel: *I can't read the address on this envelope.* | *Please notify us of any change of address.* **2** (the number showing) a place in the memory of a computer where particular information is stored

ad-dress² /ə'dres/ *v* [T] **1** [(to)] to write a name and address on (an envelope, parcel, etc.): *There's a letter addressed to you.* **2** **a** to direct speech or writing to (a person or group): *The Education Secretary had to address a hostile crowd of teachers.* **b** [(to)] to direct (speech or writing) to a person or group: *She addressed her remarks particularly to the young people in the crowd.* **3** [(as)] to speak or write to, using a particular title of rank: *The president should be addressed as "Mr President".* **4** (in GOLF) to slightly change the position of the GOLF CLUB before hitting (a golf ball) **5** **address oneself to** *fml* to direct one's attention or efforts to: *He ignored the side issues and addressed himself to the main problem.*

address³ *n* **1** [C] a formal speech made to a group of people (AUDIENCE) who are gathered esp. to listen: *a commencement address* **2** [U] rare skill in conversation or in dealing with a situation

ad-dress-ee /,ædre'siz, ə-/ *n* the person to whom a letter, parcel, etc., is addressed

ad-duce /ə'dju:s||ə'du:z/ *v* [T] *fml* to give (an example, proof, or explanation): *Can you adduce any reason for his strange behaviour?*

Ad-e-laide /'ædɪleɪd, -dəl-/ a port and the capital city of S Australia

Ad-e-nau-er /'ædənaʊər, 'ɑ:/, **Kon-rad** /'kɒnræd||'kɑ:n-/ (1876–1967) a German politician. He was the first Chancellor of West Germany from 1949 to 1963 and he led the country's return to economic STABILITY and entry into the EEC.

ad-e-noids /'ædɪnɔɪdz, 'ædən-/ *n* **1** [P] the soft growth

between the back of the nose and the throat **2** [U] *BrE* *infml* the condition in which these are swollen and sore — **noidal** /ˌædʒˈnɔɪdl/ *adj*

ad-ept¹ /ˈædept, əˈdept/ *adj* [(at, in)] highly skilled: *He was very adept at making up excuses for his lateness.* — **~ly** *adv*

ad-ept² /ˈædept/ *n* [(at, in)] a person who is adept at something

ad-e-quate /ˈædɪkwɪt/ *adj* **1** [(for)] enough for the purpose: *The city's water supply is no longer adequate (for its needs).* | *adequate parking facilities* — compare **AMPLE** **(1)** **2** [F (to)] having the necessary qualities: *I hope he will prove adequate to the job.* **3** only just good enough: *Her performance was adequate, though hardly exciting.* — **~ly** *adv*: *She wasn't adequately insured.* — **-quacy** *n* [U (for)]: *He doubted your adequacy for the job.*

▷ **USAGE** **1 Adequate, enough, and sufficient** can all be used before nouns to talk about quantity: *We had adequate/enough/sufficient money for the journey.* But in this meaning only **enough** and **sufficient** are used before plural nouns: *Are there enough/sufficient apples for everyone?* **2** If you want to talk only about quantity, do not use **adequate** in sentences where it might mean “good enough”. Compare *The prisoners received adequate food* (“good enough” or “enough in quantity”) and *The prisoners received sufficient/enough food* (“enough in quantity”). **3 Adequate and sufficient** are both slightly more formal than **enough**.

Ad-es-te Fi-de-les /æˌdesteɪ fɪˈdeɪleɪz/ *the* Latin title and first line of a religious song (CAROL) sung at Christmas. The English title is *Oh Come All Ye Faithful*.

ad-here /ədˈhɪə/ *v* [I (to)] to stick firmly (to another or each other), for example by means of **GLUE**

adhere to sthg. *phr v* [T] *often fml* to continue to follow or remain loyal to (an idea, belief, or plan): *They failed to adhere to our original agreement.*

ad-her-ence /ədˈhɪərəns/ *n* [U+to] the action of continuing to support or be loyal to something, esp. in spite of difficulties: *adherence to one's religious beliefs*

ad-her-ent /ədˈhɪərənt/ *n* a person who supports a particular idea, person, political party, etc.

ad-he-sion /ədˈhɪːzən/ *n* **1** [U (to)] the state or action of sticking together or to something: *adhesion to strict production timetables* **2** [U] *tech* the joining together of parts inside the body which should be separate **3** [C] *tech* an area of **TISSUE** (=fleshlike body substance) that has grown round a diseased or damaged part

ad-he-sive /ədˈhɪːsɪv/ *n, adj* (a substance such as glue) that can stick or cause sticking: *adhesive tape*

ad hoc /ˌæd ˈhɒk/ *adj* [A] *Lat* made, arranged, etc., for a particular purpose: *an ad hoc committee set up to deal with the water shortage*

Ad-i-das /ˈædɪdæs/ *tdmk* a company that sells sports clothing and equipment

A-die /ˈeɪdi/ , **Kate** /keɪt/ (1945–) a television news reporter for the BBC, who is known esp. for being seen in foreign places where dangerous events are happening

a-dieu /əˈdjuː/ *interj, n* **adieux** or **adieux** /əˈdjuːz/ *lit* (a) goodbye: *to bid someone adieu*

ad in-fi-ni-tum /ˌæd ɪnfɪˈnaɪtəm/ *adv* *Lat* without end; forever

ad-i-os /ˌædiˈɒs/ *interj, n* *Sp, AmE infml* — goodbye

ad-i-pose /ˈædɪpəʊs/ *adj* [A] *tech* of or containing animal fat; fatty: *adipose tissue*

Ad-i-ron-dacks /ˌædɪˈrɒndæks/ *[the]* an area of mountains and forests in NE New York, known for its great natural beauty

adj *written abbrev. for:* **ADJECTIVE**

ad-ja-cent /əˈdʒeɪsənt/ *adj* [(to)] *fml* very close; touching or almost touching: *The council offices are adjacent to the library.*

ad-jec-tive /ˈædʒɪktɪv/ *n* a word that describes a noun or **PRONOUN**, such as *black* in *She wore a black hat* or *happy* in *The news made her happy.* — compare **ADVERB** — **-tival** /ˌædʒɪkˈtaɪvəl/ *adj*: *an adjectival phrase such as “with blonde hair” in “the woman with blonde hair”* — **-tivaly** *adv*

ad-join /əˈdʒɔɪn/ *v* [I;T] to be next to, very close to, or touching (another or each other): *Our house adjoins theirs.* | *adjoining rooms*

ad-journ /əˈdʒɜːn/ *v* **1** [I;T (for, till, until)] **a** to bring (a meeting, trial, etc.) to a stop, esp. for a short period or until a slightly later time: *Shall we adjourn this discussion until tomorrow?* **b** to come to such a stop: *The committee adjourned for an hour/for lunch.* — compare **POSTPONE** **2** [I+adv/prep, esp. to] *often humor* (of a group of people) to go to another place, esp. for a rest: *After the meeting we all adjourned to the pub.* — **~ment** *n* [C;U]: *The court met again after an adjournment of two weeks.*

ad-judge /əˈdʒʌdʒ/ *v* [T] *fml or tech* **1** to decide or state officially: [+that] *The court adjudged that he was guilty.* [+obj+adj] *It adjudged him (to be) guilty.* **2** [+obj+n/adj] to declare to be; **PRONOUNCE**: *The show was adjudged a great success.*

ad-ju-di-cate /əˈdʒuːdɪkeɪt/ *v* [I (on, upon);T] *fml or tech* to act as a judge, for example in a competition or in an argument between two groups or organizations; decide about: *Who will adjudicate (on this dispute)?* | *to adjudicate a claim* — **-cator** *n* — **-cation** /əˈdʒuːdɪˈkeɪʃən/ *n* [U]: *The matter was brought up for adjudication.*

ad-junct /ˈædʒʌŋkt/ *n* **1** [(to)] something that is added or joined to something else but is not a necessary part of it **2** *tech* an **ADVERBIAL** word or phrase that adds meaning to another part of a sentence, such as *on Sunday* in *They arrived on Sunday.*

ad-jure /əˈdʒʊə/ *v* [T+obj+to-v] *fml* to urge solemnly: *She adjured him to tell the truth.*

ad-just /əˈdʒʌst/ *v* [I;T (to)] to change slightly, esp. in order to make right or make suitable for a particular purpose or situation: *You can adjust the colour on the TV by turning this knob.* | *He adjusted (himself) very quickly to the heat of the country.* | *Your tie needs adjusting.* — compare **ADAPT**; see also **WELL-ADJUSTED** — **~able** *adj*: *an adjustable chair* — **~ment** *n* [C;U]: *We made a few minor adjustments to the plan.*

ad-ju-tant /ˈædʒʊtənt/ *n* an army officer responsible for office work

ad-lib¹ /ˌæd ˈlɪb/ *v* **-bb-** [I;T] *infml* to invent and deliver (music, words, etc.) without preparation; **IMPROVISE**: *The actress forgot her lines but ad-libbed very amusingly.*

ad lib² *adv infml* **1** (speaking, playing, performing, etc.) without preparation: *a radio show in which people have to speak ad lib for ten minutes on a given subject* **2** without limit; freely: *a restaurant where you pay a fixed price and can eat ad lib* — **ad-lib** /ˌæd ˈlɪb/ *adj*: *ad-lib jokes*

ad-man /ˈædmæn/ *n* **-men** /men/ *infml* a member of the advertising profession

ad-min /ˈædmɪn/ *n* [U] *infml abbrev. for:* **ADMINISTRATION**; the management of business affairs, often personal matters such as paying bills: *I must do some admin this weekend.*

ad-min-is-ter /ədˈmɪnɪstə/ *v* [T] **1** to manage or direct (esp. the affairs of a business, government, etc.): *The company's finances have been badly administered.* | *The courts administer the law.* **2** [(to)] *fml* to give; **DISPENSE**: *to administer punishment* | *The priest administered the last rites.* (=Christian ceremony for someone who is dying) **3** [(to)] *fml* to cause to make (an official promise): *to administer the oath to a witness in court*

ad-min-is-tra-tion /ədˈmɪnɪˈstreɪʃən/ *n* **1** [U] the management or direction of the affairs of a business, government, etc.: *the administration of the law* | *You will need some experience in administration before you can run the department.* **2** [S + sing./pl. v] the people who direct the affairs of a business: *I think the accountants will want to talk to the college administration.* **3** [U (of)] *fml* the act of giving; administering (**ADMINISTER** 2, 3) **4** [the] *AmE* (often *cap.*) the (period of) government, esp. of a particular president or ruling party: *during the Reagan Administration*

ad-min-is-tra-tive /ədˈmɪnɪˈstreɪtɪv/ *adj* of or concerning administration: *The job is mainly administrative.* | *administrative responsibilities* — **~ly** *adv*

ad-min-is-tra-tor /ədˈmɪnɪˈstreɪtər/ *n* **1** a person whose job is administration **2** *BrE* a person appointed by a court to manage or direct the affairs of a company near to **INSOLVENCY**, in order to try to save it

ad-mi-ra-ble /ˈædmərəbəl/ *adj* worthy of admiration; very

good: *She showed admirable self-control. | The commission of inquiry has done an admirable job.* —**bly** *adv*

ad-mi-ral /'ædmərəl/ *n* a naval rank —see TABLE 3 —see also RED ADMIRAL; see FATHER (USAGE)

Admiral's Cup /,... '·/ [*the*] an international sailing competition held off the British coast every two years and consisting of four races, including the Fastnet Cup Race

Ad-mi-ral-ty /'ædmərəlti/ *n* [*the*] the government department that controls the British navy

Admiralty Arch /,.... '·/ the large arch which stands between the Mall and Trafalgar Square in central London

ad-mi-ra-tion /,ædmə'reɪʃən/ *n* **1** [U (for)] a feeling of pleasure and respect: *I was filled with admiration for her courage.* **2** [*the*+S+of] a person or thing that causes such feelings: *His new bike made him the admiration of his friends.*

ad-mire /əd'maɪər/ *v* [T (for)] to think of or look at with pleasure and respect: *I admire (her for) the way she handles her staff. | You may not like him, but you've got to admire his persistence. | He gave her an admiring look. | He's always looking in the mirror, admiring himself!* —see WONDER (USAGE)

ad-mir-er /əd'maɪərər/ *n* a person who admires, esp. a man who is attracted to a particular woman: *one of her many admirers*

ad-mis-si-ble /əd'mɪsɪbəl/ *adj* that can be accepted or considered: *admissible evidence in a court of law* —opposite **inadmissible** —**bility** /əd'mɪsɪ'bɪlɪti/ *n* [U]

ad-mis-sion /əd'mɪʃən/ *n* **1** [U (to)] allowing or being allowed to enter or join a school, club, building, etc.: *They campaigned for the admission of women to the club.* **2** [U] the cost of entrance: *Admission £1* **3** [C (of)] a statement admitting that something is true; CONFESSION: *an admission of guilt/failure [+that] His admission that he was the thief surprised everyone. | He's a bad driver, by/on his own admission.* (=as he himself says)

▷ USAGE Compare **admission** and **admittance**. In the meaning "permission to go in", **admission** is the ordinary word. **Admittance** is more formal and is usually used literally, with the meaning "permission to enter a building": *No admittance (fml)/admission after 10 p.m.* The entrance price is the **admission**: *Admission £2.* ◀

ad-mit /əd'mɪt/ *v* -tt- **1** [I (to);T] to state or agree to the truth of (usu. something bad); CONFESS: *He admitted his guilt/admitted to the murder. [+v-ing] She admitted stealing the bicycle/admitted having stolen the bicycle. [+that] She admitted that she had stolen the bicycle. | I must admit, it's more difficult than I thought it would be. [+obj+to-v] A fuel leak is now admitted to have been the cause of the trouble.* —compare DENY (1) **2** [T (into, to)] to permit to enter; let in: *He was admitted to hospital suffering from burns.* **3** [I+of; T] *fml* to leave a chance for being possible; allow: *The facts admit (of) no other explanation.*

ad-mit-tance /əd'mɪtəns/ *n* [U] *fml* right of entrance: *Journalists were unable to gain admittance to the courtroom.* —see ADMISSION (USAGE)

ad-mit-ted /əd'mɪtɪd/ *adj* [A] having admitted oneself to be; SELF-CONFESSED: *He is an admitted alcoholic.*

ad-mit-ted-ly /əd'mɪtɪdli/ *adv* it must be admitted (that): *Admittedly, he works slowly, but his essays are always excellent. | The results of our poll, though admittedly taken from a smaller sample, are quite different from theirs.*

ad-mix-ture /əd'mɪkstʃər/ *n* [+of; usu. sing.] *fml* or tech a substance that is added to another in a mixture

ad-mon-ish /əd'mɒnɪʃ/ -'maɪ-/ *v* [T (for, against)] *fml* to warn or speak to with gentle disapproval: *The witness was admonished by the judge for failing to answer the question.* —**ingly** *adv*

ad-mo-ni-tion /,ædmə'nɪʃən/ *n* [C;U] *fml* an act of admonishing

ad-mon-i-to-ry /əd'mɒnɪ'tɔːri/ *adj* *fml* of or being warning advice or gentle disapproval: *admonitory remarks*

ad nau-se-am /,æd 'nɔːziəm, -iəm/ *adv* Lat repeatedly and to an annoying degree: *We have heard your complaints ad nauseam.*

a-do /ə'duː/ *n* [U] delay or unnecessary activity (esp. in the phrase **without more/further ado**): *Without more ado,*

I'd like to introduce tonight's special guest.

a-do-be /ə'dəʊbi/ *n* [U] a building substance made of earth and STRAW dried in the sun, used in hot countries; esp. in the South West of the US and Mexico

ad-o-les-cent /,ædə'lesənt/ *adj, n* **1** (of) a boy or girl in the period between being a child and being an adult; young TEENAGER of about 13–16 —see CHILD (USAGE) **2** *derog* (of) an adult who behaves like an adolescent: *his adolescent humour* —**-cence** *n* [S;U] : *the period of adolescence*

► CULTURAL NOTE People think of adolescents as being difficult because their behaviour and emotions are not always reasonable or controlled. They often do things against the advice or wishes of their parents. Adolescents also suffer from physical problems, e.g. spots (ACNE). ◀

A-do-nis /ə'dəʊnɪs/ in CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY, an extremely beautiful boy: *He walked into the room looking like (an) Adonis.* —see also GREEK GOD

a-dopt /ə'dɒpt/ə'dɔːpt/ *v* **1** [I;T] to take (someone else's child) into one's family for ever and to take on the full responsibilities in law of a parent: *He's not my real father; I'm adopted.* —compare FOSTER

► CULTURAL NOTE When people adopt a child, they become the legal parents of the child. The child's BIRTH CERTIFICATE is changed so that the child has the same name as the new parents, and the child's natural parents do not usually have the right to see the child or know where the child is. In Britain when the child is 18 years old, he or she has the right to learn who his or her real parents are, and to find them if he or she wants to. In the US, state laws vary, but generally a person does not have the right to know who his or her natural parents are, although they may be able to find out if the natural parents are willing. It is not easy for people to adopt children in Britain, as there are many checks made on their age, financial position, relationships, etc. before they are considered suitable. In the US there are usually fewer rules about who may adopt a child. ◀

2 [T] to take and use as one's own: *We adopted their production methods.* **3** [T] to begin to have (a quality or appearance): *to adopt a conciliatory attitude/a tough approach to the terrorists* **4** [T] to approve formally; accept: *The committee adopted my suggestions.* **5** [T (as)] to choose as a representative (CANDIDATE) for election

a-dop-tion /ə'dɒptʃən/ə'dɔːp-/ *n* [C;U] (an example of) the act of adopting: *If you can't have children of your own, why not consider adoption?* | (fig.) *He was not born here, but this is his country of adoption.*

adoption a-gen-cy /,.... '·/ *n* an organization whose purpose is to connect people wishing to adopt suitable children, not always officially and sometimes for financial profit

a-dop-tive /ə'dɒptɪv/ə'dɔːp-/ *adj* [A] *fml* having adopted a child: *her adoptive parents*

a-dor-a-ble /ə'dɔːrəbəl/ *adj* **1** worthy of being loved deeply **2** *infml* charming or attractive: *What adorable curtains!*

ad-o-ra-tion /,ædə'reɪʃən/ *n* [U] **1** religious worship **2** deep love and respect

a-dore /ə'dɔːr/ *v* [T not in progressive forms] **1** to love deeply and respect highly: *He gave her an adoring look. | He adores his elder brother.* **2** [+obj/v-ing] *infml* to like very much: *She adores the cinema/going to the cinema.* **3** to worship in a religious way

a-dorn /ə'dɔːn/ -ɔːrn/ *v* [T (with)] *fml* to make more beautiful, attractive, or interesting: *He adorned his story with all sorts of adventures that never happened.* —see DECORATE (USAGE)

a-dorn-ment /ə'dɔːnmənt/ -ɔːr-/ *n* **1** [U] the act of adorning **2** [C] something that adorns

a-dren-a-lin /ə'drenəl-ɪn/ *n* [U] a chemical substance (HORMONE) made by the body during a period of fear, anger, excitement, etc., causing quick or violent action: *It was one of those scary situations that really gets the adrenaline going.*

A-dri-at-ic /,eɪdri'ætɪk/ also **Adriatic Sea** /,.... '·/ [*the*] the long, narrow sea between Italy and Yugoslavia and Albania. Its chief port is Venice.

a-drift /ə'drɪft/ *adj, adv* [F] **1** (esp. of boats) not fastened, and driven about by the sea or wind; loose **2** without purpose or direction: *Our plans seem to have gone adrift somewhere.*

a-droit /ə'drɔɪt/ *adj* [(at, in)] quick and skilful in using mind or hand — **ly adv**: *The politician sidestepped the question very adroitly.* — **ness n** [U]

a-du-ki bean /ə'du:ki bi:n/ *also* **ad-zu-ki bean** /əd'zu:ki/ *n* a brown and red bean much used in Chinese and Japanese cooking, either dried or ground into flour

ad-u-la-tion /,ædʒʊ'leɪʃən/ *n* [U] praise or admiration that is more than is necessary or deserved: *basking in the adulation of the crowd* — **latory** /,ædʒʊ'leɪtəri, 'ædʒʊ'leɪtəri/ *adj*

ad-ult /'ædʌlt, ə'dʌlt/ *n* a fully grown person or animal, esp. a person over an age stated by law, usually 18 or 21: *This film is for adults only* — see also **CONSENTING ADULT** — **hood** /'ædʌlthud/ *n* [U]

► **CULTURAL NOTE** In Britain a person who is 16 years old is allowed to get married if his or her parents agree to it, and is also allowed to have sex (**AGE OF CONSENT**). At 17 years old people can learn to drive a car. At 18 people **come of age**, and are considered to be adults by law. They are allowed to vote in elections, to buy and drink alcohol, and to watch films containing sex and violence. They can get married without the agreement of their parents. In the US, 18 is also the age when a person is considered to be an adult by law. At 18 a person can vote in elections and no longer needs permission from their parents to do things, e.g. get married. Driving licences are usually obtained at age 16, in some states 15. However, in most states there are restrictions on alcoholic drinking until age 21, with only beer and wine allowable from the age of 18 at the earliest. Many people celebrate their 18th birthday with a party. Some people also celebrate their 21st birthday, which used to be the age at which a person became an adult. In both Britain and the US, it is thought that adults should be able to control their feelings and behaviour, for example by not losing their temper, not showing feelings such as jealousy, and behaving in a reasonable and responsible way: *I would find it easier to get on with him if he'd behave like an adult!* — compare **MATURE**¹ (1) ◀

adult² *adj* 1 fully grown: *an adult lion* 2 suitable for or typical of a fully grown person; **MATURE**: *They've dealt with the situation in a very adult way.* | *adult entertainment*

adult book-store /,.. '., ., '., / *n* *AmE euph* a shop which sells books, magazines, and pictures of people, esp. women, wearing little or no clothing and sometimes performing sex acts

adult ed-u-ca-tion /,.. .. '., ., '., / *|| also continuing education* *AmE n* [U] education provided for adults outside the formal educational system, usu. by means of classes that are held in the evening — compare **FURTHER EDUCATION**, **HIGHER EDUCATION**

a-dul-ter-ate /ə'dʌltəreɪt/ *v* [**T (with)**] to make (a substance) impure or of poorer quality by the addition of something of lower quality: *This milk has been adulterated with water.* — see also **UNADULTERATED** — **-ation** /ə'dʌltə'reɪʃən/ *n* [U]

a-dul-ter-er /ə'dʌltərə/ *a-dul-ter-ess* /-tərəs/ *fem.* — *n* *old use* a married person who has had sexual relations with someone who is not their husband/wife

a-dul-ter-y /ə'dʌltəri/ *n* [U] sexual relations between a married person and someone who is not their husband/wife: *to commit adultery* — **-terous adj**

► **CULTURAL NOTE** Although many people do not approve of people who **COMMIT** adultery, it is not a crime in Britain or the US. If someone who is married has a relationship with another person, people would say that they are **having an affair**, rather than that they are committing adultery. In law, adultery is a reason someone can use in order to end a marriage. In the US, adultery is considered to be a more serious offence, and most people feel strongly that it is wrong. ◀

ad-um-brate /'ædʌmbreɪt/ *v* [**T**] *pomp* to give an incomplete or faint idea of (esp. future events) — **-bration** /,ædʌm'breɪʃən/ *n* [C;U] (**of**)

adv *written abbrev. for:* **ADVERB**

ad-vance¹ /əd'vɑ:ns/ *v* *rather fml* 1 [**I (on, upon, against)**] to move forward in position, development, etc.: *Napoleon's army advanced on Moscow.* — compare **RETREAT**² 2 [**T**] to help, improve, or bring advantage to (esp. a process or development): *His provocative comments will do nothing to advance the cause of world peace.* |

She's not really concerned about this issue — she's just trying to advance her own interests. 3 [**T**] to bring forward to an earlier date or time: *to advance the date of the meeting from Wednesday to Monday* — opposite **postpone** 4 [**T+obj(i)+obj(d)**] to provide (money) earlier than the proper or usual time: *The company will advance you £200 until your salary is paid.* 5 [**T**] to introduce; suggest: *The report advances the suggestion that safety standards should be improved.*

advance² *n* 1 [C;U] forward movement: *The army's advance was halted by shortages of food.* | *her rapid advance in the company* | *the advance of old age* | (fig.) *There have been great advances (=developments) in medicine in the last 50 years.* — compare **RETREAT**¹ (1) 2 [C (**of**)] money provided before the proper time: *They gave me an advance of a month's pay.* 3 **in advance** ahead in time; **BEFOREHAND**: *We had to pay the rent two weeks in advance.* 4 **in advance (of)** ahead (of): *A small force was sent on in advance.* — see also **ADVANCES**

advance³ *adj* [**A**] happening, coming, or done before the proper or usual time: *We sent advance copies of the new book to all the papers.* | *It's a popular show, so advance booking is essential.* | *We can get you a plane ticket if you give us plenty of advance warning.*

ad-vanced /əd'vɑ:ns/ *adj* 1 far on in development: *advanced studies* | *the advanced industrial nations of the world* | *an advanced child* 2 modern: *advanced ideas* 3 **advanced in years fml euph** old

advanced lev-el /- '., / *n* [C;U] (in British education) **A LEVEL**

ad-vance-ment /əd'vɑ:nsmənt/ *n* [U] *fml* improvement, development, or movement to a higher rank

ad-vanc-es /əd'vɑ:nsɪz/ *n* [**P**] attempts to gain someone's friendship, love, or favourable attention: *She didn't respond to his advances.*

ad-van-tage /əd'vɑ:ntɪdʒ/ *n* 1 [**C (over)**] something that may help one to be successful or to gain a favourable result: *Her teaching experience gave her a big advantage (over the other applicants for the job).* — opposite **disadvantage** 2 [C;U] a favourable condition resulting from a particular course of action; gain; **BENEFIT**: *Is there any advantage to be gained from getting there early?* | *One of the advantages of this method is that it saves a lot of fuel.* | *This method has the advantage of saving a lot of fuel.* | *The lawyer's letter said she would hear something to her advantage if she contacted him.* — opposite **disadvantage** 3 **Advantage X** (said in tennis when X has won the point after **DEUCE**; X must then win the next point to win the game, or the number of points returns to **deuce**): *Advantage Miss Graf.* 4 **take advantage of:** **a** to make use of; profit from: *You should take advantage of the fine weather to paint the fence.* **b** to make unfair use of (someone or someone's qualities); **EXPLOIT**: *She took advantage of his good nature.* 5 **You have the advantage of me BrE** You know something that I don't

ad-van-ta-geous /,ædvən'teɪdʒəs, ,ædvən-/ *adj* [(**to**)] helpful to a particular aim; bringing advantage: *The new process should be particularly advantageous to small companies.* — opposite **disadvantageous** — **ly adv**

ad-vent /'ædvent/ *n* [**the+S+of**] the arrival or coming of (an important event, period, invention, etc.): *People are much better informed since the advent of television.*

Advent (in Christian religions) the period of the four weeks before Christmas

Advent cal-en-dar /'., / *n* a special **CALENDAR** given to children in December. The child opens a little window on the calendar on each day of the month until the 24th December, which is the day before Christmas. Behind each window is a picture connected with Christmas.

ad-ven-ti-tious /,ædvən'tɪʃəs, ,ædven-/ *adj fml* not expected or planned; coming by chance; accidental — **ly adv**

ad-ven-ture /əd'ventʃə/ *n* 1 [**C**] a journey, experience, etc., that is strange and exciting and often dangerous: *her exciting adventures in the Himalayas* 2 [**U**] excitement, for example in a journey or activity; risk: *a life of adventure* | *Come on! Where's your sense of adventure?* (=Why are you afraid to take a risk?) — see **VENTURE (USAGE)**

adventure play-ground /- '., / *n* *BrE* a piece of ground where young children can play, provided by some local

councils in Britain, which has more exciting and adventurous equipment than usual

ad-ven-tur-er /əd'ventʃərə/ *n* **1** a person who enjoys adventures **2** a person who hopes to gain wealth or high social position by dishonest, dangerous, or sexually immoral means

ad-ven-tur-ess /əd'ventʃərəs/ *n* a female ADVENTURER (esp. 2)

ad-ven-tur-ous /əd'ventʃərəs/ *adj* **1** also **ad-venture-some** /əd'ventʃəsəm||-tʃər-/ *AmE*—eager for adventure; ready to take risks; daring **2** exciting and full of danger: *an adventurous life/journey* — **~ly** *adv*

ad-verb /'ædvɜ:b||-zɜ:b/ *n* a word or group of words that describes or adds to the meaning of a verb, an adjective, another adverb, or a whole sentence, such as *slowly* in *He ran slowly*; *very* in *It's very hot*; *tomorrow* in *Come tomorrow*; *away* in *Put it away*; and *naturally* in *Naturally* (=of course), *we want you to come*. —compare ADJECTIVE

ad-ver-bi-al /əd'vɜ:biəl||-zɜ:r-/ *n, adj* (a word or phrase) used as an adverb: *an adverbial phrase* — **~ly** *adv*

ad-ver-sa-ry /'ædvəsəri||'ædvərseri/ *n fml* an opponent; enemy —**-sarial** /,ædvɜ:'seəriəl||-vɜ:r-/ *adj*

ad-verse /'ædvɜ:s||-zɜ:rs/ *adj fml* unfavourable; going against; opposing: *The proposal has attracted a lot of adverse comment*. | *in adverse conditions* — **~ly** *adv*

ad-ver-si-ty /əd'vɜ:sɪti||-zɜ:r-/ *n* [C;U] *fml* bad fortune; trouble: *A good friend will not desert you in time of adversity*. | *to meet with adversities*

ad-vert¹ /əd'vɜ:t||-zɜ:rt/ *v*

advert to sthg. *phr v* [T] *fml* to mention

ad-vert² /'ædvɜ:t||-zɜ:t/ *n BrE infml* an advertisement

ad-ver-tise /'ædvətəɪz||-ər-/ *v* **1** [I;T] to make (something for sale, services offered, a room to rent, etc.) known to the public, for example in a newspaper or on television: *I advertised (my house) in the "Daily News"*. | *a big poster advertising a new shampoo* | *Are lawyers allowed to advertise (their services)?* **2** [I (for)] to ask (for someone or something) by placing an advertisement in a newspaper, shop window, etc.: *We've advertised for someone to look after the garden*. **3** [T] to make generally known (esp. something that should perhaps be kept secret): *It was unwise of them to advertise their willingness to make concessions at the negotiations*. —**-tiser** *n*

ad-ver-tise-ment /əd'vɜ:tɪsmənt||,ædvər'taɪz-/ *n* also **ad-vert** *BrE infml* something used for advertising things, such as a notice on a wall or in a newspaper, or a short film shown on television: *to put an advertisement in the paper* | *TV adverts in between programmes* | (fig.) *He's not a very good advertisement for the driving school — he's failed his test six times!*

ad-ver-tis-ing /'ædvətəɪzɪŋ||-ər-/ *n* [U] the business of encouraging people to buy goods by means of advertisements: *a job in advertising* | *an advertising campaign*

advertising a-gen-cy /'....., .../ *n* an organisation which helps a company sell its goods or services by doing MARKET RESEARCH, producing advertising materials, and buying space for advertising in newspapers or on television

Advertising Stan-dards Au-thor-ity /,..... 'l... .., .../ (*abbrev. ASA*) [*the*] a British organization which controls the activities of the advertising industry. If people think an advertisement is wrong or offensive, they can complain to this organization, which may decide that the advertisement should not be used again.

ad-vice /əd'vaɪs/ *n* [U] opinion given to someone about what they should do in a particular situation: *I asked the doctor for her advice*. | *Acting on her advice, I decided to give up smoking*. | *He gave them some good/sound advice*. | *Let me give you a piece of advice*. | *If you take my advice, you won't tell anyone about this*. (=this is what I advise)

advice col-umn /'....., .../ *n* a part of a newspaper or magazine containing letters from readers asking for advice, often about money, work, health, personal problems, etc., together with advice from the newspaper or magazine

advice col-umn-ist /'....., .../ *n* a person, often an EXPERT in a certain field, who gives advice in an advice column

advice note /'....., .../ *n* a letter sent by a supplier to a customer stating that goods ordered have arrived at the place they were being sent to

ad-vi-sab-le /əd'vaɪzəbəl/ *adj* sensible; wise: *It is advisable*

always to wear a safety belt when you're driving. — opposite **inadvisable** —**-sability** /əd'vaɪzə'bɪlɪti/ *n* [U]: *I would question the advisability of such a course of action*.

ad-vice /əd'vaɪz/ *v* **1** [I;T] to give advice to; say or write (something) as advice: *We will do as you advise*. | *The doctor advised complete rest*. | *The lawyers have advised against signing the contract*. [+obj+to-v] *I advised her to wait*. [+obj+that] *I advised her that she should wait*. [+obj+wh-] *She advised us where to eat*. [+v-ing|that] *I advise leaving early|that you leave early*. **2** [I;T (on)] not in progressive forms to act as a professional adviser (to): *It's a lawyer's job to advise on the law*. | *She advises the President on foreign affairs*. **3** [T (of)] *fml* to inform: *Please advise me of the cost*. [+obj+that|wh-] *I have advised her that we are coming|advised her when the bags will arrive*. **4** **ill-advised/well-advised** unwise/wise: *You would be well-advised to stay at home today*.

ad-vis-ed-ly /əd'vaɪzɪdli/ *adv* after careful thought; purposely: *She is behaving like a dictator — and I use the term advisedly*.

ad-vis-er || also **-or** *AmE* /əd'vaɪzə/ *n* a person whose job is to give advice, esp. to a government or business or (in the US) to students: *the government's special adviser on the Middle East*

ad-vi-so-ry /əd'vaɪzəri/ *adj* giving advice; having the power or duty to advise: *employed in an advisory capacity*

advisory bod-y /'....., .../ *n* an organization which has the authority to make suggestions about how other organizations, esp. in a certain field, should behave and run their affairs

ad-vo-ca-cy /'ædvəkəsi/ *n* [U] **1** [(of)] the act or action of supporting an idea, way of life, person, etc. **2** the profession or work of an advocate

ad-vo-cate¹ /'ædvəkət, -keɪt/ *n* **1** *law ScotE* a lawyer who speaks in defence of or in favour of another person in court —compare BARRISTER, SOLICITOR; —see also LAWYER (CULTURAL NOTE) **2** [(of)] a person who speaks for or supports an idea, way of life, etc.: *a strong advocate of prison reform* —see also DEVIL'S ADVOCATE

ad-vo-cate² /'ædvəkeɪt/ *v* [T+obj/v-ing] to speak in favour of; support (an idea or plan), esp. publicly: *He advocates a reduction in military spending|advocates reducing military spending*.

adze also **adz** *AmE* /ædz/ *n* a sharp tool with the blade at a right angle to the handle, used for shaping large pieces of wood

Ae-ge-an Sea /ɪ,dʒi:ən 'si:/ [*the*] the sea of SE Europe, between Greece and Turkey

ae-gis /'i:dzɪs/ *n* **under the aegis of** *fml* with the protection or support of: *a refugee programme under the aegis of the United Nations*

Ae-ne-as /ɪ'ni:əs/ in CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY, a Trojan leader who, after the fall of Troy, escaped to Carthage, where he met Dido, and then to Italy where he established Latium and the Roman state

Ae-ne-id /ɪ'ni:ɪd/ , **The** Virgil's poem about the adventures of Aeneas a HERO from Greek and Roman MYTHOLOGY

ae-on , **eon** /'i:ən/ *n* a period of time too long to be measured

aer-ate /'eəreɪt/ *v* [T] *tech* **1** to put air or gas into (a liquid) as by pressure **2** to allow air to act upon: *Blood is aerated in the lungs*. —**-ation** /eə'reɪʃən/ *n* [U]

aer-i-al¹ /'eəriəl/ also **antenna** *AmE*— *n* a wire, rod, etc., often on top of a house or on a car, for receiving radio or television signals —see pictures at CAR and HOUSE

aerial² *adj* of, from, or happening in the air: *an aerial battle* | *an aerial photograph* (=taken from the air) — **~ly** *adv*

ae-rie /'ɪəri||'eəri/ *n* *AmE* for EYRIE

Ae-ro /'eəru/ *n* *tdmk* a type of chocolate bar made by Rowntree Mackintosh Limited; there are different FLAVOURS of Aero and Aero DESSERTS

aero- see WORD FORMATION

aer-o-bat-ics /,eəɹə'bætɪks, ,eəru-/ *n* [U] the art of doing tricks in an aircraft, such as rolling over sideways or flying upside down —**-batic** *adj*

aer-o-bic /eə'rəubɪk/ *adj* *tech* needing oxygen in order to live, happen, or exist: *aerobic bacteria*

aer-o-bics /eə'rəubɪks/ *n* [U] a form of very active physical exercise which is usu. done in a class with music and is intended to strengthen the heart and lungs. It is esp.

popular with women and is considered by many people to be a fashionable form of exercise: *She goes to/does aerobics twice a week.* | *an aerobics class*

aer-o-drome /'eərədrəʊm/ *n* old-fash, esp. BrE an AIRFIELD

aer-o-dy-nam-ic /,eərəʊdaɪ'næmɪk/ *adj* **1** concerning aerodynamics **2** using the principles of aerodynamics, esp. to improve the effectiveness or performance of something: *one of the most aerodynamic cars on the market* — **~ally** /kli/ *adv*: aerodynamically designed

aer-o-dy-nam-ics /,eərəʊdaɪ'næmɪks/ *n* **1** [U] the science that studies the forces that act on bodies moving through the air **2** [P] the qualities necessary for movement through the air

aer-o-gramme /'eərəgræm/ *n* an AIRLETTER

aer-o-nau-tics /,eərə'nɔːtɪks/ *n* [U] the science of the operation and flight of aircraft — **-nautical, -nautic** *adj*

aer-o-plane /'eərəpleɪn/ BrE || **airplane** AmE — *n* a flying vehicle that has wings and at least one engine; PLANE: a passenger aeroplane

aer-o-sol /'eərəsɒl||-sɔːl/ *n* a small container from which liquid can be forced out in the form of a fine mist. Many people now avoid using aerosols because they believe that the chemicals used in aerosols, called CFCs, can cause damage to the OZONE LAYER. Some aerosols do not contain these chemicals, and are usu. marked "ozone-friendly".

aer-o-space /'eərəspeɪs, 'eərəʊ-/ *n* [U] the air around the Earth, the space beyond it, and the vehicles used there: *the aerospace industry*

Aes-chy-lus /'iːskɪləs||'es-/ (525–456 BC) a Greek poet and writer of many plays, often said to have invented TRAGEDY

Ae-sop /'iːsɒp||-sɔːp/ *n* (?620–?560 BC) a Greek writer who wrote moral short stories (FABLES) using animal characters. The stories are called *Aesop's Fables*.

aes-thete also **es-** AmE /'iːθɪt||'es-/ *n* a person who has a highly developed sense of beauty, esp. beauty in art

aes-thet-ic also **es-** AmE /iːs'thetɪk, es-||es-/ *adj* **1** of or showing a highly developed sense of beauty, esp. in art: *The building is aesthetic but not very practical.* **2** of or concerning aesthetics: *From an aesthetic point of view it's a nice design.* — **~ally** /kli/ *adj*

aes-thet-ics also **es-** AmE /iːs'thetɪks, es-||es-/ *n* [U] the study or science of beauty, esp. in art

ae-ther /'iːθə/ *n* [U] *lit* or old use for ETHER (2)

a-far /ə'fɑː/ *adv* *lit* at a distance; far off: *I saw him from afar.*

AFDC /,eɪ ef dɪː 'sɪz/ *n* [U] Aid to Families with Dependent Children; a US government programme that gives money to poor families, esp. single parents — compare CHILD BENEFIT

af-fa-ble /'æfəbəl/ *adj* easy to talk to; ready to be friendly; pleasant — **-bly** *adv* — **-bility** /,æfə'bɪləti/ *n* [U]

af-fair /ə'feə/ *n* **1** an event or set of connected events: *The meeting was a noisy affair./a stormy affair | the Water-gate affair* **2** [often pl.] something needing action or attention; matter: *The minister is busy with important affairs of state.* | *the Ministry of Foreign Affairs* | *This is a very embarrassing state of affairs!* (=situation) | *I am not prepared to discuss my financial affairs.* **3** a sexual relationship between two people not married to each other, although at least one of them is married, esp. one that lasts for some time: *She's having an affair with her husband's best friend.* — see also LOVE AFFAIR

af-fect /ə'fekt/ *v* [T] **1** to cause some result or change in; influence: *Smoking affects health.* | *Will the strike affect the price of coal?* | *an important decision that will affect the company's future* | *a disease that does not affect (=attack) humans* | *emergency relief for the areas affected by drought/for the drought-affected areas* **2** to cause feelings of sorrow, anger, love, etc., in: *She was deeply affected by the news of his death.* | *an affecting experience*

▷ USAGE Compare **affect** and **effect**. **1** **Affect** is the usual verb and **effect** is the usual noun: *Government policy will not affect (v) us/will not have any effect (n) on us.* **2** **Effect** used as a verb is very formal and means "to bring about, usually according to one's wishes": *He was able to effect certain changes in government policy.* <

affect² *v* [T] *fml*, often *derog* **1** to pretend to feel, have, or do: *He affected illness so that he could stay off work.* [+to-v] *She affected not to care about her failure.* **2** to show a liking for; use: *He affects long words that people can't understand.*

af-fec-ta-tion /,æfek'teɪʃən/ *n* [C;U] *derog* (a piece of) behaviour which is not one's natural manner: *She is sincere and quite without affectation.* | *She's not really American — her accent is just an affectation.*

af-fect-ed /ə'fektɪd/ *adj* *derog* not real, natural, or sincere; showing affectation: *an affected smile* — opposite **unaffected** — **~ly** *adv*

af-fec-tion /ə'fekʃən/ *n* [U] gentle lasting love, like that of a parent for a child; fondness: *He feels/has a deep affection for his old friend.* | *a display/show of affection*

af-fec-tion-ate /ə'fekʃənət/ *adj* showing gentle love: *an affectionate hug* | *an affectionate child* — **~ly** *adv*: *He signed the letter "Affectionately, your brother Bill."*

af-fi-anced /ə'faɪənst/ *adj* old use for ENGAGED¹ (1)

af-fi-da-vit /,æfɪ'deɪvɪt/ *n* *law* a written statement made after an official promise (OATH) to tell the truth, for use as proof in a court of law

af-fil-i-ate¹ /ə'fɪliət/ *v* [I;T (with, to)] (esp. of a group or organization) to join or connect (esp. to a larger group): *Our club is affiliated with/to a national organization of similar clubs.* — compare DISAFFILIATE — **-ation** /ə'fɪli'eɪʃən/ *n* [C;U (with)]: *We have affiliations with several other societies in the town.* | *What are her political affiliations?*

af-fil-i-ate² /ə'fɪliət/ *n* a group or organization that is affiliated to another, esp. a SUBSIDIARY (or part-owned) company controlled by a parent company

affiliation or-order /... '... / *n* a decision made in a British court of law ordering a man to pay for the support of his child born to a woman to whom he is not married

af-fin-i-ty /ə'fɪnɪti/ *n* **1** [C;U (between, with)] relationship, close similarity, or connection: *The French and Italian languages have many affinities (with each other).* **2** [S (for, to, between)] a strong feeling of shared interests (with someone): *He feels a strong affinity for/to her.* | *There is a great affinity between them.*

affinity card /... '... / also **affinity credit card, charity card** *n* a type of CREDIT CARD which lets the user send a small sum of money to a particular CHARITY every time the card is used

af-firm /ə'fɜːm||-zɜːm/ *v* *fml* **1** [T] to declare (usually again, or in answer to a question or doubt): *The minister affirmed the government's intention to reduce taxes.* [+that] *She affirmed that she was telling the truth.* — compare DENY (1) **2** [I] to promise to tell the truth in a court of law, but without mentioning God or religion in the promise — **~ation** /,æfə'meɪʃən||,æfər-/ *n* [C;U]

af-fir-ma-tive /ə'fɜːmətɪv||-zɜːr-/ *n, adj* often *fml* (a statement) saying or meaning "yes": *The answer to my request was a strong affirmative.* | *an affirmative answer* | *She answered in the affirmative.* — opposite **negative** — **~ly** *adv*

affirmative ac-tion /... '... / *n* [U] the practice or principle, when choosing people for a job or an education course, of favouring people who are often treated unfairly esp. because of their sex or race; POSITIVE DISCRIMINATION. Affirmative action is a political subject in the US about which many people feel very strongly: *The company is an affirmative action employer.* | *UCLA's affirmative action program* — compare REVERSE DISCRIMINATION

af-fix¹ /ə'fɪks/ *v* [T (to)] *fml* to fix, fasten, or stick: *A stamp should be affixed to the envelope.*

af-fix² /'æfɪks/ *n* a group of letters or sounds added to the beginning of a word (PREFIX) or to the end of a word (SUFFIX) to change its meaning or its use (as in "untie", "misunderstood", "kindness", "quickly")

af-flict /ə'flɪkt/ *v* [T (with) often pass.] to cause to suffer in the body or mind; trouble: *afflicted with bad eyesight* | *one of the major problems currently afflicting third world countries*

af-flic-tion /ə'flɪkʃən/ *n* [C;U] *fml* (something that causes) suffering or unhappiness: *the afflictions of old age*

af-flu-ent /'æfluənt/ *adj* having plenty of money or other possessions; wealthy: *an affluent society/family* — **-ence** *n* [U]

af-ford /ə'fɔːd||-ɔːrd/ *v* [T] **1** (usu. with *can, could, able*

to) to be able to buy or pay for: *Thanks to the success of the business, we can afford a holiday/a new car this year.*
2 (usu. with **can**, **could**, **able to**) to be able to spend, give, do, etc., without serious loss or damage: *I can't afford three weeks away from work.* | *I just can't afford the time.* [+to-v] *We can't afford to lose such an important member of the staff/to upset such an important customer.*
3 *fml* or *lit* to provide; give: *The top-floor windows afforded a magnificent view of the whole city.* [+obj(i)+obj(d)] *The tree afforded us shelter from the rain.*
 — **~able** *adj*: *rents affordable to students living on grants*

af·for·est /ə'fɔːrɪst/ [ə'fɔː-, ə'fɑː-] *v* [T] to plant (hills, etc.) with trees in order to make a forest —opposite **disafforest**, **deforest** — **~ation** /ə'fɔːrɪ'steɪʃən/ [ə'fɔːr-, ə'fɑːr-] *n* [U]

af·fray /ə'freɪ/ *n* *esp. law* a fight or noisy quarrel in a public place, between small groups

af·fri·cate /'æfrɪkət/ *n* *tech* a consonant sound consisting of a PLOSIVE (such as /t/ or /d/) that is immediately followed by a FRICATIVE pronounced in the same part of the mouth (such as /ʃ/ or /ʒ/): *The word "church" contains the affricate /tʃ/.*

af·front¹ /ə'frʌnt/ *v* [T often pass.] to be rude to or hurt the feelings of, esp. intentionally or in public; offend

affront² *n* [(to)] an act, remark, etc., that is rude to someone or hurts their feelings, esp. when intentional or in public; **INSULT**: *an affront to one's dignity/pride*

Af·ghan /'æfgæn/ *n* **1** also **Af·gha·ni** /æf'gɑːni/ someone who comes from Afghanistan or whose parents come from Afghanistan **2** also **Afghan hound** /, - ' / a tall thin dog originally used for hunting, with a pointed nose and a coat of very long silky hair —see picture at **DOG** **3** a colourful **BLANKET** made of knitted (**KNIT**) or crocheted (**CROCHET**) squares — **Afghan** *adj*

Af·ghan·is·tan /æf'gænɪstæn, -stæn/ a country in Asia, south of Turkmenistan and Tajikistan and north-west of Pakistan; capital Kabul; population 15,814,000 (1989)

a·fi·cio·na·do /ə'fɪʃə'nɑːdəʊ/ *n* -**dos** *Sp* someone who is keenly interested in a particular activity or subject; **FAN**; **DEVOTEE**: *aficionados of football* | *a cinema aficionado*

a·field /ə'fiːld/ *adv* far away, esp. from home; to or at a great distance: *Don't go too far afield or you'll get lost.* | *We get a lot of tourists from Europe, and some from even further afield.*

a·fire /ə'faɪər/ *adj, adv* [F (**with**)] on fire: *He set the house afire.* | (fig.) *afire with enthusiasm*

a·flame /ə'fleɪm/ *adj, adv* [F (**with**)] on fire; **ABLAZE**: *The house was aflame.* | (fig.) *The gardens were aflame with red and orange leaves.*

AFL·CIO /, eɪ ef , el , sɪz aɪ 'əʊ/ [*the*] American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations; an association of American **TRADE UNIONS**, which is very influential in the US

a·float /ə'fləʊt/ *adj, adv* [F] **1** floating on water; at sea: *Help me get the boat afloat.* | *How long did you spend afloat?* (=on a ship) **2** covered with water; flooded **3** out of debt: *The company somehow managed to keep/stay afloat.*

a·foot /ə'fʊt/ *adj, adv* [F] **1** (esp. of something bad) being prepared or in operation: *There is a plan afoot to pull down the old building.* | *There is some strange business afoot.* **2** *old use* moving, esp. on foot

a·fore·said /ə'fɔːsɪd/ [ə'fɔːr-] also **a·fore·men·tioned** /ə'fɔːmenʃənd/ [ə'fɔːr-] — *adj* [A] *law* mentioned or named before or already: *The car belongs to the aforesaid Ms Jones.* [also *n*, *the+C*, *pl. aforesaid*] *The aforementioned was/were present at the trial.*

a·fore·thought /ə'fɔːθɔːt/ [ə'fɔːr-] *adj* *law* see **with malice aforethought** (**MALICE**)

a **for·ti·o·ri** /, eɪ fɔːtɪ'ɔːraɪ, -rɪ/ [fɔːr-] *adv* *Lat* for a still stronger reason; even more certainly: *If you can afford a car then, a fortiori, you can afford a bicycle.*

a·foul /ə'faʊl/ *adv* **run afoul of** to bring one into opposition or disagreement with: *His proposal runs afoul of government plans to curb expenditure on education.*

a·fraid /ə'freɪd/ *adj* [F] **1** [(of, for)] full of fear; frightened: *There's no need to be afraid.* | *Don't be afraid of the dog.* | *He was afraid for his job.* (=afraid that he might lose it) [+to-v] *I was afraid to go out of the house at night.* [(that)] *They were afraid that the police would catch them.* —see

FRIGHTENED (USAGE) **2** [(of)] unwilling to do something, esp. because of worry about possible results: *I didn't tell her because I was afraid of upsetting her.* [+to-v] *Don't be afraid to ask for help.* | (*apprec*) *They're not afraid of hard work.* (=They work very hard.) **3** [(that)] *polite* sorry for something that has happened or is likely to happen: *I am afraid (that) I've broken your pen.* | "Are we late?" "I'm afraid so." | "Are we on time?" "I'm afraid not." | *I'm afraid I'm going to have to ask you to leave.* **4** **afraid of one's own shadow** habitually frightened or nervous

▷ **USAGE** **I'm afraid** is often used as a polite phrase when you are giving someone unpleasant information: *I'm afraid I have some rather bad news for you.* | "Did you pass your exam?" "I'm afraid not." | "Do I have to pay the full price?" "I'm afraid so." | *We're afraid we're unable to offer you the job.* It can also be used when you want to disagree with someone: *I'm afraid I really can't agree with you there.* | *Yes, Sue, but I'm afraid you haven't quite understood my point.* ◁

a·fresh /ə'freʃ/ *adv* *fml* once more from the beginning; again: *After his business collapsed he had to start afresh.*

Af·ric·a /'æfrɪkə/ one of the seven main land masses (**CONTINENTS**) on the Earth, south of the Mediterranean Sea and connected to Asia

Af·ri·can /'æfrɪkən/ *n, adj* (someone who comes or whose parents come) from Africa

African A·mer·i·can /, ... ' / *n* *AmE* an American who is descended from black Africans, esp. those who were brought to America as slaves before the middle of the 19th century

African Na·tion·al Con·gress /, ... ' / *n* [*the*] see **ANC**

African vi·o·let /, ... ' / *n* a house plant with small pink or purple flowers popular in Britain and the US

Af·ri·kaans /, æfrɪ'kaːns/ *n* [U] a language of South Africa similar to Dutch

Af·ri·ka·ner /, æfrɪ'kaːnər/ *n* a South African whose first language is Afrikaans, esp. a descendant of the Dutch settlers of the 17th century

Af·ro /'æfrəʊ/ *n* **Afros** a hairstyle for men and women in which the hair is shaped into a large round bushy mass

Afro- see **WORD FORMATION**

Afro·Car·ib·be·an /, ... ' / *n, adj* (a person) of the Caribbean, whose family came from Africa: *How many British MPs are of Afro-Caribbean origin?*

aft /ɑːft/ [æft] *adj, adv* in or towards the **STERN** (=the back part) of a boat or aircraft —opposite **fore** —compare **FORWARD**⁴

after¹ /'ɑːftər/ [æf-] *prep* **1** following in time; later than: *We'll leave after breakfast.* | *They will be back the day after tomorrow.* | *I don't like going out after dark.* | *After the performance there was enthusiastic applause.* | *a film about life after a nuclear attack* | (*AmE*) *It's twenty after seven.* **2** following continuously: *Day after day the rain continued.* | *It seems to be just one problem after another.* **3** following in place or order: *He entered the room after his father.* | *Your name comes after mine in the list.* | *Shut the door after you.* (=when you have gone through) | *After you with the sugar, please.* (=can I have it next?) **4** as a result of; because of: *After the way he treated me I never want to see him again.* **5** in spite of: *After all my care in packing it, the clock arrived broken.* **6** in search of (esp. in order to punish); looking for: *The police are after me.* | "What are you after?" "I'm looking for my coat." **7** with the name of: *The boy was named after his uncle.* **8** *fml* in the manner or style of: *This is a painting after Rembrandt.* **9** **after all**: **a** in spite of everything: *So you see I was right after all!* **b** it must be remembered (that): *I know he hasn't finished the work but, after all, he's very busy.* —see also **ASK after**, **after one's own heart** (**HEART**), **TAKE after**

after² *conj* at a later time than (when): *I found your coat after you had left the house.* | *She started the job soon after/shortly after she left the university.*

after³ *adv* [after *n*] later; afterwards: *John came on Tuesday, and I arrived the day after.*

▷ **USAGE** **After** with the meaning "afterwards" usu. follows another time adverb: *We arrived just/soon/shortly after.* But in informal English it can follow other

words: *We had dinner and went home afterwards* (infml) **after**. ◀

after⁴ *adj* [A] 1 *lit* later in time: *He grew weak in after years.* 2 *tech* in the back part of a boat or aircraft: *the after deck*

after- see WORD FORMATION

af-ter-birth /'ɑ:ftəbɜ:θ||'æftərbɜ:rθ/ *n* the material that comes out of a woman just after she has given birth to a child —compare PLACENTA

af-ter-care /'ɑ:ftəkeə||'æftər-/ *n* [U] the care or treatment given to someone after a period in hospital, prison, etc.

af-ter-ef-fect /'ɑ:ftərɪfekt||'æf-/ *n* [often pl.] an effect (usu. unpleasant) that follows some time after the cause or after the main effect

After Eight /,ɑ:.. 'i-/ *n* *tdmk* a flat, square, chocolate-covered soft PEPPERMINT sweet which is popular esp. after formal meals

af-ter-glow /'ɑ:ftəgləʊ||'æftər-/ *n* [usu. sing.] 1 the light that remains in the western sky after the sun has set 2 a pleasant feeling that remains after a happy experience or event

af-ter-life /'ɑ:ftələɪf||'æftər-/ *n* -lives /laɪvz/ [usu. sing.] 1 life after death 2 the later part of a person's life, esp. after a particular event —compare HEREAFTER²

af-ter-math /'ɑ:ftəmæθ||'æftər-/ *n* [(of) usu. sing.] the result or period following a bad event such as an accident, storm, war, etc.: *the danger of disease in the aftermath of the earthquake*

af-ter-noon /,ɑ:ftə'nun||'æftər-/ *n* [C;U] the period between midday and either sunset or the end of the day's work: *a hot afternoon* | *on Tuesday afternoons* | *I'll have a sleep in the afternoon.* | *tomorrow afternoon* | *an afternoon swim* | *in the early/late afternoon* —compare EVENING

af-ter-noons /,ɑ:ftə'nunz||'æftər-/ *adv* esp. AmE in the afternoon repeatedly; during any afternoon: *I'm always out in the afternoons.*

afternoon tea /,ɑ:.. 'i-/ *n* [C;U] BrE, AustrE a drink of tea and sometimes a light meal taken at about four o'clock in the afternoon

▶ **CULTURAL NOTE** In Britain, afternoon tea is thought of as a formal meal, served to visitors. People typically think of small sandwiches, esp. CUCUMBER sandwiches, and small cakes, and of people behaving in a very polite, formal way towards each other. ◀

af-ters /'ɑ:ftəz||'æftərz/ *n* [P] BrE infml the part of a meal that comes after the main dish; DESSERT: *What are we having for afters?* —see DESSERT (USAGE)

after-sales ser-vice /,ɑ:.. 'i-/ *n* [U] the services such as providing SPARE PARTS, repairs, and advice offered to customers after they have bought something: *The company provides a very good after-sales service.*

af-ter-shave /'ɑ:ftəʃeɪv||'æftər-/ also **after shave lo-tion** /'i:.. 'i:/ *n* [C;U] a liquid with a pleasant smell for use on the face after shaving (SHAVE)

af-ter-taste /'ɑ:ftətəɪst||'æftər-/ *n* a taste, esp. an unpleasant taste, that stays in the mouth after the food that caused it is no longer there: (fig.) *The angry exchange of words left an unpleasant aftertaste.*

af-ter-thought /'ɑ:ftəθɔ:t||'æftər-/ *n* 1 an idea that comes later 2 something added later, esp. something that was not part of the original plan: *The conservatory was an afterthought, added on to the building several years later.*

af-ter-wards /'ɑ:ftəwədz||'æftərwədz/ also **af-ter-ward** /-wəd||-wərd/ AmE— *adv* later; after that —see AFTER³ (USAGE)

AFTRA /'æftərə/ American Federation of Television and Radio Artists; an American trade union for actors and actresses whose performances are TAPED (recorded) for television or radio —compare EQUITY, SAG

A-ga /'ɑ:gə/ *n* *tdmk* a cooker made of solid iron, like the kinds of cooker that people used to have in the past. Agas now usu. work by electricity, oil, or gas.

a-gain /ə'gen, ə'geɪn||ə'gen/ *adv* 1 once more; one more time: *Please say that again.* | *Let's start again from the beginning.* | *Never do that again!* | *He told the story once again/yet again.* | *The committee will meet again next Thursday.* 2 back to the place, condition, etc., as before: *She was ill but now she is well again.* | *He's home again*

now. 3 besides; further: *I could eat as much (=the same amount) again.* 4 however; on the other hand: *She might agree, and then again she might not.* 5 again and again also time and (time) again, over and over again—very often; repeatedly: *I've told them again and again not to play there.* —see also now and again (NOW)

a-against /ə'genst, ə'geɪnst||ə'genst/ *prep* 1 in opposition to: *We will fight against the enemy.* | *There were 20 votes for her and 12 against her.* | *They are strongly against the idea.* | *Against all probability, she won a place in the finals.* | *Stealing is against the law.* (=illegal) | *They went ahead with the plan, against my wishes.* (=although I did not want them to) 2 in the direction of and touching or meeting: *The rain beat against the windows.* 3 touching, esp. for support: *She was leaning against the wall.* 4 in an opposite direction to: *We sailed against the wind.* 5 as a defence or protection from: *They were vaccinated against cholera.* 6 having as a background: *The picture looks good against that light wall.* 7 causing disadvantage to; having an unfavourable effect on: *The present economic climate works against the smaller companies.* | *His prison record will count against him.* 8 fml in preparation for: *They have saved some money against their old age.* —see also over against (OVER²) 9 **He that is not with me is against me** quote from the Bible any person who does not openly support me is opposed to me

A-ga Khan /,ɑ:gə 'kɑ:n/ [the] (1936–) a very rich Arab leader who is known for owning many race-horses

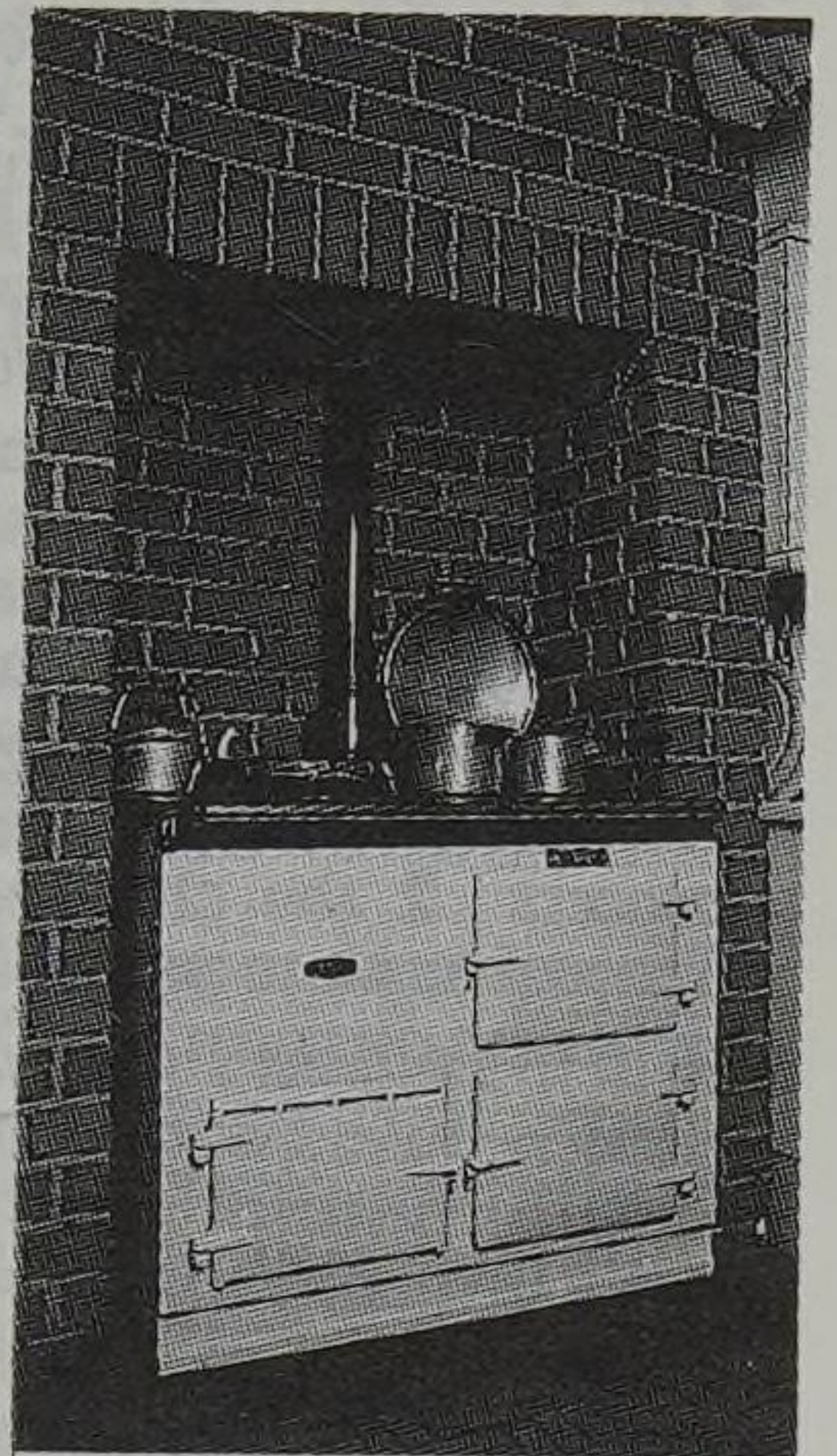
Ag-a-mem-non /,ægə'memnən, -nən||-nɑ:n/ in CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY, a king of Argos, leader of the Greeks in the Trojan War

a-gape /ə'geɪp/ *adj, adv* [F] 1 wide open: *They watched with their mouths agape.* —see also GAPE 2 [(with)] in a state of wonder: *The children were agape (with excitement) as they watched the programme.*

ag-ate /'ægəɪt/ *n* [C;U] a hard stone with bands of colour, used in jewellery

age¹ /eɪdʒ/ *n* 1 [C] the period of time a person has lived or a thing has existed: *She entered Parliament at the age of 26.* | *He doesn't look his age.* (=He looks younger than he actually is.) | **At your age** you should know better. | *What ages are (not have) your children?* | *She married a man who was twice her age.* (=twice as old as she was) 2 [U] one of the periods of a person's life: *Who is going to look after them in their old age?* (=when they are old) | *A person of 40 has reached middle age.* | *retirement age* | *men of military age* (=within the age range considered acceptable for soldiers) —see also TEENAGE 3 [U] the state of being old: *His back was bent with age.* 4 [U] the particular time of life at which a person becomes able or not able to do something: *You can't drive a car yet — you're still under age.* (=you're too young) | *He won't be called up for military service — he's over age.* —see also AGE OF CONSENT 5 [C usu. sing.] (often cap.) a particular period of history: *The period in which people learnt to make tools of iron is called the Iron Age.* | *We are living in the nuclear age/the space age.* —see also GOLDEN AGE 6 [C] also **ages** pl. — infml a long time: *It's been ages/an age since we met.* 7 **come of age:** a to reach the particular age, usu. 18 or 21, at which one becomes responsible in law for one's own actions, and one is allowed to vote, own property, etc. b to reach a stage of full development: *The company has now been successfully established for ten years, and has really come of age.* —see also COMING OF AGE 8 **age before beauty** a phrase used humorously by someone letting another person go through a door first

age² *v* **aged, ageing or aging** [I;T] 1 to (cause to) become old or seem old: *After his illness he aged quickly.* | *His illness seems to have aged him quite noticeably.* —see also



AGEING¹ **2** to improve, esp. in taste, as time passes: *This cheese has aged for nearly two years.*

Age Con-cern /'æ. ɪ. ʃən/ a British CHARITY which represents the interests of old people

aged¹ /eɪdʒd/ *adj* **1** [F] being of the stated number of years: *They've got two children, aged 3 and 7.* **2** (of cheese or wine) fully developed, esp. in taste

ag-ed² /'eɪdʒd/ *adj* very old: *an aged man* [also *n*, *the+P*] *special arrangements for the aged and infirm*

age di-scrim-i-na-tion /'æ. ɪ. ʃən/ *n* [U] *AmE* for AGEISM

age group /'æ. ɪ. ʃən/ also **age brack-et** /'æ. ɪ. ʃən/ *n* [C+*sing./pl.*] *v* the people between two particular ages considered as a group: *a book written for children in the 12–14 age group*

age-ing¹ *BrE* || *usu. aging AmE* /'eɪdʒɪŋ/ *adj* [A] becoming old; rather old, esp. older than is considered desirable or suitable: *We need to replace some of this ageing office equipment.* | *an ageing playboy/hippie*

ageing² *BrE* || *usu. aging AmE* *n* [U] **1** the process of getting old: *a healthy diet which retards ageing* | *the ageing process* **2** the changes that happen (e.g. to wine or cheese) as time passes

age-is-m, **agism** /'eɪdʒɪzəm/ *BrE* || **age discrimination AmE** – *n* [U] the making of unfair differences between people because of their age, esp. treating young people more favourably than old people: *He didn't get the job because he's over 40 – that's pure ageism.* – **ageist** *adj*, *n*

age-less /'eɪdʒləs/ *adj* never growing old or never showing signs of growing old: *an ageless song* | *ageless beauty* – *~ness n* [U]

age lim-it /'æ. ɪ. ʃən/ *n* an upper or lower age beyond which one is not allowed to do something

a-gen-cy /'eɪdʒənsi/ *n* **1** [C] a business that makes its money by bringing people into touch with others or the products of others: *I got this job through an employment agency.* | *an advertising agency* | *The company has agencies (=offices representing it) all over the world.* – see also DATING AGENCY, NEWS AGENCY **2** [C] *esp. AmE* a department of a government or of an international body: *a United Nations agency responsible for helping refugees* **3** [S (of)] the power or force which causes a result: *Iron is melted by the agency of heat.*

Agency for In-ter-na-tion-al De-vel-op-ment /'æ. ɪ. ʃən/ (abbrev. **AID**) [*the*] an American government department which provides money to help less developed countries to improve their economic situation and the quality of life of their people

a-gen-da /ə'dʒendə/ *n* – **das** a list of the subjects to be dealt with or talked about at a meeting: *What's on the agenda for this afternoon's meeting?* | *the first item on the agenda* | *The question of salary increases is high on the agenda.* | (fig.) *Education has risen to the top of the political agenda.* – see also HIDDEN AGENDA

a-gent /'eɪdʒənt/ *n* **1** a person whose job is to represent another person, a company, etc., esp. one who brings people into touch with others or deals with the business affairs of a person or company: *Our agent in Rome deals with all our Italian business.* | *An estate agent (BrE)/real estate agent (AmE) arranges the buying and selling of houses.* | *A literary agent manages the business affairs of an author.* – see also DOUBLE AGENT, FREE AGENT, LAND AGENT, SECRET AGENT **2** *fml or tech* a person or thing that works to produce a result: *Rain and sun are the agents which help plants to grow.* | *Soap is a cleansing agent.*

Agent Or-ange /'æ. ɪ. ʃən/ *n* [U] a chemical weapon used by American soldiers in Vietnam to destroy crops, and now thought to have caused ABORTIONS, CANCERS, and deformities (DEFORMITY) in many Vietnamese people

a-gent pro-voc-a-teur /'æ. ɪ. ʃən/ *n* **agents provocateurs** (same pronunciation) *Fr* a person who is employed by the government or police, to encourage criminals or those working against the state to do something illegal so that they can be caught

age of con-sent /'æ. ɪ. ʃən/ *n* [*the*] the age at which a person is considered to be old enough to marry or have sexual relations without breaking the law. In Britain the age of consent is 16 for HETEROSEXUAL sex and 21 for HOMOSEXUAL sex between men. In the US, the age of consent varies from state to state, but *usu.* it is between 16 and 18. – see also ADULT (CULTURAL NOTE)

Age of En-light-en-ment /'æ. ɪ. ʃən/ also **Age of Rea-son**

/'æ. ɪ. ʃən/ [*the*] a period in European history, in the 18th century, when educated people thought that belief should depend on reason and scientific proof

ag-glom-er-ate¹ /ə'glɒməreɪt/ *v* [I;T] *fml* to collect or gather into a confused mass or pile – **agglomerate** /ə'glɒməreɪt/ *adj* – **-ation** /ə'glɒmə'reɪʃən/ *n* [C;U] : *The town is surrounded by agglomerations of ugly new houses.*

ag-glom-er-ate² /ə'glɒməreɪt/ *n* [S;U] *fml or tech* a type of rock formed from pieces of hard material from a VOLCANO that have been melted and united by heat

ag-glu-ti-na-tion /ə'gluːtɪ'neɪʃən/ *n* [U] *tech* **1** sticking or becoming stuck together, esp. in a jelly-like form: *agglutination of bacteria/red blood cells* **2** the formation of new words by combining separate parts which each have their own meaning (such as *shipyard* from *ship* and *yard*) – **-native** /ə'gluːtɪ'nəɪv/ || *-neɪv/ adj* : *an agglutinative language* (=in which words are formed by agglutination)

ag-gran-dize-ment also **-disement** *BrE* /ə'grændɪzəmənt/ *n* [U] *usu. derog* increase in size, power, or rank, esp. when intentionally planned: *He is willing to tell lies and break promises for his own personal aggrandizement.*

ag-gra-vate /'ægrəveɪt/ *v* [T] **1** to make (a difficult situation) more serious or dangerous; make worse: *The lack of rain aggravated the already serious shortage of food.* | *Their debt problem was further aggravated by the rise in interest rates.* **2** *infml* to make angry, esp. by continual annoyance: *aggravating delays caused by heavy traffic* – **-vatingly** *adv* – **-vation** /'ægrə'veɪʃən/ *n* [C;U]

▷ USAGE Although **aggravate** is commonly used to mean “annoy”, this is often thought by teachers to be incorrect: a *difficulty* is **aggravated** (=made worse); a *person* is **irritated** or **annoyed**. – see also ANGRY (USAGE), ANNOY (USAGE)◀

ag-gre-gate¹ /'ægrɪɡeɪt/ *n* **1** [C;U] *fml* a total: *The football team had a low goal aggregate last season.* | *What were the company's aggregate earnings for the year?* **2** [S;U] *tech* the materials, such as sand and small stones, that are mixed with CEMENT to form CONCRETE

ag-gre-gate² /'ægrɪgeɪt/ *v* *fml or tech* **1** [I;T] to bring or come together into a group or mass **2** [L+n] to reach a total of; add up to: *Her earnings from all sources aggregated £100,000.* – **-gation** /'ægrɪ'geɪʃən/ *n* [C;U]

ag-gres-sion /ə'gresʃən/ *n* [U] the act or tendency of starting a quarrel, fight, or war, esp. without just cause: *The military exercise was condemned as an act of aggression.* – see also NONAGGRESSION

ag-gres-sive /ə'gresɪv/ *adj* **1** *derog* always ready to quarrel or attack; BELLIGERENT: *an aggressive manner* **2** *ap-prec* not afraid of opposition; determined and forceful; ASSERTIVE: *A successful businessman must be aggressive.* | *an aggressive marketing campaign* **3** (of weapons) made for use in attack – *~ly adv* – *~ness n* [U]

ag-gres-sor /ə'gresəʃ/ *n* a person or country that begins a quarrel, fight, war, etc., with another, esp. without just cause

ag-grieved /ə'grɪvd/ *adj* **1** showing hurt, angry, and bitter feelings, esp. because one has been unfairly treated **2** *esp. law* having suffered as a result of the illegal actions of someone else: *The allegations of fraud were proved and the court awarded the aggrieved parties substantial damages.*

ag-gro /'ægrəʊ/ *n* [U] *BrE sl* trouble, esp. fighting, e.g. between groups of young people; used esp. of the behaviour of young, aggressive men, who enjoy fighting

a-ghast /ə'gɑːst/ *adj* [F (at)] suddenly filled with great surprise, fear, and shock: *She was aghast when she was told of her husband's huge gambling debts.*

ag-ile /'ædʒaɪl/ *adj* able to move quickly and easily; NIMBLE: *an agile animal* | (fig.) *an agile mind* – *~ly adv* – **-ility** /ə'dʒɪlɪti/ *n* [U]

A-gin-court /'ædʒɪŋkɔːt/ a famous battle in France in 1415, which the English, led by King Henry V, won. There are scenes of this battle in the play *Henry V* by Shakespeare.

ag-ing /'eɪdʒɪŋ/ *n* [U] AGEING

ag-is-m /'eɪdʒɪzəm/ *n* [U] AGEISM

ag-i-tate /'ædʒɪteɪt/ *v* **1** [T] to make (someone) feel anxious and nervous: *He became quite agitated when he was asked about his criminal past.* **2** [I (for, against)] to

argue strongly in public for or against some political or social change: *to agitate for cheaper school meals* 3 [T] to shake (a liquid) about

ag-i-ta-tion /ˌædʒɪˈteɪʃən/ *n* 1 [U] painful excitement of the mind or feelings; anxiety: *He was in a state of great agitation.* 2 [C;U (for, against)] public argument, action, unrest, etc., for or against political or social change

ag-i-ta-tor /ˌædʒɪˈteɪtər/ *n* 1 *usu. derog* a person who excites and influences public feeling, esp. towards political change 2 a machine for shaking or mixing

a-glow /əˈgləʊ/ *adj* [F (with)] bright with colour or excitement: *The sky was aglow with the setting sun.* | *a face aglow with excitement*

AGM /ˌeɪ dʒiː ˈem/ *n* *BrE* || *usu. annual meeting AmE* — annual general meeting; a meeting held once a year by the members of a company, club, or other organization, for the purpose of electing officials, reporting on the year's business, etc.

ag-nos-tic /ægˈnɒstɪk, əg-||-ˈnɑː-/ *n, adj* (a person) who believes that nothing can be known about God or life after death —compare ATHEIST — ~ **ism** /ægˈnɒstɪsɪzəm, əg-||-ˈnɑː-/ *n* [U]

a-go /əˈɡəʊ/ *adj* [after *n* or *adv*] back in time from now; in the past: *He left ten minutes ago/five years ago.* | *How long ago did he leave?* | *He died long ago/a long time ago.* —compare FOR¹ (7)

▷ **USAGE** 1 **Ago** is nearly always used with verbs in past forms and not with verbs formed with *have*. Compare *I came here a year ago* and *I have been here for a year/since 1985*. 2 When we are contrasting a more distant time in the past with a nearer time we use **before (that)** or **previously** instead of **ago**: *My grandfather died five years ago; my grandmother had already died three years before (that)/previously* (=eight years ago). ◀

a-gog /əˈɡɒɡ||əˈɡɑːɡ/ *adj* [F (with)] *infml* full of eager excitement and expectation: *The children were all agog (with excitement) as the actor pulled a gun from his pocket.*

ag-o-nize also **-nise** *BrE* /ˈæɡənəɪz/ *v* [I (over)] *infml* to make a long and anxious effort when considering something or trying to make a decision: *After agonizing (over it) for days we finally made up our minds.*

ag-o-nized also **-nised** *BrE* /ˈæɡənəɪzd/ *adj* expressing great pain: *She let out an agonized cry.*

ag-o-niz-ing also **-nising** *BrE* /ˈæɡənəɪzɪŋ/ *adj* causing great pain or anxiety: *an agonizing decision/delay* — ~ **ly** *adv*

ag-o-ny /ˈæɡəni/ *n* [C;U] very great pain or suffering of mind or body: *He lay in agony until the doctor arrived.* | *I was in an agony of doubt/in agonies of doubt.*

agony aunt /ˈ... ˌ/ *BrE* || **advice columnist AmE** — *n* a woman who gives advice to readers in an agony column. Famous agony aunts in Britain are Marjorie Proops and Claire Rayner, and in the US Dear Abby and Ann Landers.

agony col-umn /ˈ... ˌ/ *BrE* || **advice column AmE** — *n* a part of a newspaper, esp. a TABLOID, or magazine containing letters from readers about their personal problems, together with advice from the newspaper or magazine

ag-o-ra-pho-bi-a /ˌæɡərəˈfəʊbiə/ *n* [U] fear of open spaces —compare CLAUSTROPHOBIA

ag-o-ra-pho-bic /ˌæɡərəˈfəʊbɪk/ *n, adj* (a person) suffering from agoraphobia

a-grar-i-an /əˈɡreəriən/ *adj* concerning land, esp. farmland or who owns it: *a campaigner for agrarian reform*

a-gree /əˈɡriː/ *v* 1 [I (with, about, on); T obj; not in progressive forms] to have or share the same opinion, feeling, or purpose; CONCUR: *I thought it was a good idea, but she didn't agree.* | *I agree with you about his latest book — it's awful.* | *We agreed on a price for the car.* [+to-v] *We agreed to leave at once.* [+that] *It is generally agreed (=most people agree) that she is the best tennis player in the country.* | *"I think it's a bad idea." "I couldn't agree more."* (=I completely agree.) —opposite **disagree**; see REFUSE (USAGE) 2 [I (to)] to say yes to an idea, opinion, suggestion, etc., esp. after unwillingness or argument; CONSENT: *I suggested that we should go on holiday and she agreed at once.* | *We'll never get him to agree to it.* 3 [I (with)] (of facts, statements, etc.) to be in accor-

dance with each other or with something else; CORRESPOND: *The witnesses' statements just don't agree (with each other).* 4 [T] *esp. BrE* to accept (an idea, opinion, etc.); reach an agreement about: *The workers have agreed the company's pay offer.* | *an agreed price/statement* 5 **agree to differ** to stop trying to persuade each other; remain friends in spite of having different opinions

▷ **USAGE** **Agree to** is used with the same meaning as **accept** before words like "suggestion", "proposal", or "plan": *Do you think he will agree to/accept my suggestions?* Both **agree** and **accept** can be used before *that* when the meaning is "admit", but **accept** is more formal: *I agree/accept that the company has not done well this year.* ◀

agree with sbdy./sthg. phr v [T no pass.] 1 *usu. in negatives* *infml* to suit the health of: *I love prawns, but unfortunately they don't agree with me.* —opposite **disagree with** 2 *tech* (of an adjective, verb, etc.) to have the proper relationship to (the word it belongs to in grammar), e.g. by being plural if it is plural, female if it is female, etc. —see also AGREE (1, 3)

a-gree-a-ble /əˈɡriːəbəl/ *adj* 1 pleasant: *agreeable weather* —opposite **disagreeable** 2 [F (to)] ready to agree; willing: *Are you agreeable (to the suggestion)?*

a-gree-a-bly /əˈɡriːəbli/ *adv* pleasantly: *We were agreeably surprised by their willingness to negotiate.*

a-gree-ment /əˈɡriːmənt/ *n* 1 [U] the state of having the same opinion, feeling, or purpose; thinking in the same way: *We are in agreement with their decision.* | *The two sides were unable to reach agreement.* —opposite **disagreement** 2 [C] an arrangement or promise of action, such as one made between people, groups, businesses, or countries: *You have broken (the terms of) our agreement by not finishing the job in time.* | *The two companies entered into an agreement with each other.* | *to sign an agreement* | *trade agreements* | *an arms-control agreement* 3 [U (with)] *tech* the fact of agreeing with another word in grammar: *the agreement of the pronoun "she" with the noun "Jane" to which it refers*

ag-ri-busi-ness /ˈæɡriˌbɪznɪs/ *n* [U;C] (a company involved in) the producing and selling of farm products, esp. as a big business: *Agribusiness is pushing out the small farmer.* | *the agribusiness sector of the economy*

ag-ri-cul-ture /ˈæɡriˌkʌltʃɪ/ *n* [U] the practice or science of farming, esp. of growing crops —compare HORTICULTURE —**tural** /ˈæɡriˌkʌltʃərəl/ *adj*: *agricultural products/machinery* —**tur(al)ist** /ˈæɡriˌkʌltʃərəlɪst/ *n*

ag-ro-chem-i-cal /ˌæɡrəʊˈkemɪkəl/ *n* a chemical used in farming e.g. to help plants grow

a-ground /əˈɡraʊnd/ *adj, adv* [F] (of a ship) on or onto the shore or bottom of a sea, lake, etc. (esp. in the phrase **run aground**)

a-gue /ˈeɪɡjuː/ *n* [C;U] fever with regular attacks of coldness and shaking esp. when caused by the disease MALARIA

ah /ɑː/ *interj* (a cry of surprise, pity, pain, joy, dislike, etc.): *Ah, there you are!*

a-ha /ɑːˈhɑː/ *interj* (a cry of surprise, satisfaction, amused discovery, etc.): *Aha, so it's you hiding there!*

A-hab /ˈeɪhæb/ , **Captain** a character in Herman Melville's NOVEL *Moby-Dick*. Captain Ahab hunts a white WHALE called Moby-Dick to the risk of his own life and the lives of the other people on his ship.

a-head /əˈhed/ *adj, adv*, [F; after *n*] 1 in front; forward: *One man went ahead (of the others) to see if the road was clear.* | *The road ahead was full of sheep.* 2 in or into the future: *to plan ahead/plan for the months ahead* 3 **ahead of**: a in advance of: *The time in London is five hours ahead of the time in New York.* b in or into a more successful position than: *Our company is well ahead of its main rivals.* | *The Democrats have moved ahead of the Republicans in the latest poll.* c higher in price, value, etc. than: *Their pay offer was well ahead of inflation.* 4 **get ahead** to do well; succeed —see also GO-AHEAD

a-hem /mˈhm; spelling pronunciation əˈhem/ *interj* (a cough used to attract attention, give a slight warning, express doubts, etc.)

a-hoy /əˈhɔɪ/ *interj* 1 (a cry of greeting made by sailors, esp. from one ship to another) 2 **ship ahoy!** (a cry used by sailors to say that they can see a ship approaching)

AI /ˌeɪ ˈaɪ/ *n* [U] ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

aid¹ /eɪd/ *v* [T (with, in)] *fml* to give support to; help: *We were greatly aided in our investigation by the cooperation of the police.* | *He was accused of aiding and abetting the terrorists.* (=helping them in criminal activities) | *computer-aided design* —see **HELP** (USAGE)

aid² *n fml* **1** [U] support or help: *We went to the aid of the injured man.* | *a concert in aid of* (=to make money for) *the church repairs fund* —see also **FIRST AID**, **LEGAL AID** **2** [C] something that provides help and makes a process easier or more effective: *A dictionary is an invaluable aid in learning a new language.* —see also **HEARING AID**, **VISUAL AID** **3** [U] help that is given by one country to another in the form of food, machines, or special skills: *aid to the developing countries* | *the government's aid budget/emergency aid* —see also **FOREIGN AID** **4** [C] *AmE* **aide** **5** **what is something in aid of?** *BrE infml* what is something for?: *"What's this little handle in aid of?" "It's for starting the machine."*

AID /,ei ai 'di:/ **1** *abbrev. for* AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT **2** Artificial Insemination by Donor; an artificial method of making a woman **PREGNANT**, by using **SEMEN** that has been collected from men and frozen

aide /eɪd/ also **aid** *AmE*— *n* a person who helps, esp. a person employed to help a government minister: *a presidential aide*

aide-de-camp /,eɪd də 'kɑ:mp/ *n* **aides-de-camp** (same pronunciation) *Fr* a military or naval officer who helps an officer of higher rank in his duties

aided school /'.. ɹ./ *n* (in Britain) a type of school (=VOLUNTARY SCHOOL) whose managers have control over religious education and the choice of teachers and are responsible for part of the cost of building work needed for the school —compare **CONTROLLED SCHOOL**

AIDS, **Aids** /eɪdz/ *n* [U] Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome; a very serious disease caused by a **VIRUS** which breaks down the body's natural defences against infection: *the AIDS epidemic* | *He died of Aids.*

► **CULTURAL NOTE** In many countries AIDS is believed to be a disease that mostly affects **HOMOSEXUAL** men and people who **INJECT** drugs. Because some people think that homosexual behaviour and drug-taking are wrong, they sometimes see AIDS as a punishment for wrong behaviour. Some people are also afraid of people who have AIDS because they think, wrongly, that they might catch the disease just from being with that person. AIDS is now the subject of important health education **CAMPAIGNS** in many countries. In the US, AIDS is a political issue because many people want the government to give more money to AIDS research. —see also **SAFE SEX** ◀

ai-ki-do /aɪ 'kɪdɔ:/ *n* [U] a Japanese fighting art based on using the opponent's strength against them in order to defend oneself.

ail /eɪl/ *v* **1** [I] to be ill and grow weak: *My grandmother is ailing.* | (fig.) *the country's ailing economy* **2** [T] old use to cause pain to; trouble (esp. in the phrase **What ails you?**)

ai-le-ron /'eɪləron||-rɑ:n/ *n* the movable back edge of the wing of an aircraft, used to keep it level or help it turn —compare **ELEVATOR** (4), and see picture at **AIRCRAFT**

ail-ment /'eɪlmənt/ *n* an illness that is not serious: *He's always complaining of some ailment or other.* | *a minor ailment*

Ail-sa Craig /,eɪlsə 'kreɪg/ a small island in Scotland

aim¹ /eɪm/ *v* **1** [I;T (at)] to point or direct (a weapon, shot, etc.) towards some object, with the intention of hitting it: *I aimed at the door but hit the window.* | *He aimed the gun carefully.* | *He aimed it at the bottles.* | (fig.) *She hit back with well-aimed criticism.* | (fig.) *The programme is aimed at* (=intended for) *young teenagers.* **2** [I (at, for)] to direct one's efforts (towards doing or obtaining something); intend (to): *The factory must aim at increased production/aim for an increase in production.* [+to-v] *He aims to be a successful writer.*

aim² *n* **1** [U] the act of directing a weapon, shot, etc.: *The hunter took aim at the lion.* | *His aim was very good.* **2** [C (of)] the desired result of one's efforts; intention or purpose; **OBJECTIVE**: *What is your aim in life?* | *The project was set up with the aim of helping young unemployed people.* | *The aim of the meeting was to reach agreement about next year's prices.* | *long-term/short-term aims* | *literary aims*

aim-less /'eɪmləs/ *adj* often *derog* without any clear purpose or direction: *his aimless life* | *aimless discussions* —*ly adv* —*ness n* [U]

ain't /eɪnt/ *nonstandard short for*: am not, is not, are not, has not, have not: *We ain't coming.* | *They ain't got it.* —see **AREN'T** (USAGE)

Ain-tree /'eɪntri:/ a race course in NW England where an important horse race, the Grand National, takes place each year

air¹ /eə/ *n* **1** [the+S;U] the mixture of gases which surrounds the Earth and which we breathe: *breathing in the fresh morning air* | *There was a smell of burning leaves in the air.* **2** [the+S;U] the sky or the space above the ground: *He jumped into the air.* | *air travel/tickets/travelers* | *It's quicker by air than by sea.* | *an air crash/disaster* **3** [C (of)] the general character or appearance of, or feeling caused by, a person or place: *There was an air of excitement at the meeting.* | *He explained the procedure with the weary air of a man who had explained it many times before.* **4** [C] that part of a piece of music that is easily recognized and remembered; tune **5** **in the air** *infml a* (of stories, talk, etc.) being passed on from one person to another **b** not fully planned or settled; uncertain: *We may be going skiing at Christmas, but it's still all up in the air.* **6** **on/off the air** broadcasting/not broadcasting: *We shall be on the air in five minutes.* —see also **AIRS**, **HOT AIR**, **THIN AIR**, **clear the air** (**CLEAR**³), **walk on air** (**WALK**¹)

air² *v* **1** [I;T] to (cause to) become dry in a place that is warm or has plenty of dry air: *Leave the clothes out on the washing-line to air.* **2** [I;T] to (cause to) become fresh by letting in air; **VENTILATE**: *We aired the room by opening the windows.* **3** [T] to make known to others (one's opinions, ideas, complaints, etc.), often in an unwelcome way: *He's always airing his views about politics.* | *an opportunity to air one's grievances* **4** [T] esp. *AmE* to broadcast on the radio or television: *a television interview to be aired this evening* —see also **AIRING**

air-bag /'eəbæg||'eər-/ *n* a large bag in a car which quickly unfolds and fills with air to protect the driver or passenger from hitting the **DASHBOARD** (=instrument board) in an accident

air-base /'eəbeɪs||'eər-/ *n* a place where military aircraft land and take off

air-bed /'eəbed||'eər-/ *n* a long rubber or plastic bag filled with air and used as a bed or for lying on in water

air-borne /'eəbɔ:n||'eərbɔ:rn/ *adj* **1** [F] (esp. of aircraft) in the air; in flight: *We will be airborne in five minutes.* **2** (esp. of seeds) carried about by the air **3** (of soldiers) trained to fight in an area after being moved by aircraft or dropped from aircraft by means of **PARACHUTES**: *airborne troops*

air-brake /'eəbreɪk||'eər-/ *n* a **BRAKE** for stopping a large vehicle, such as a bus or train, that is worked by air under pressure

air-brick /'eəbrɪk||'eər-/ *n* a special brick with holes through it, used to let air pass through a wall

air-bus /'eəbʌs||'eər-/ *n* an aircraft for carrying large numbers of passengers on short flights

air chief mar-shal /,ɹ. '...-/ *n* a British airforce rank —see **TABLE 3**

air com-mo-dore /,ɹ. '...-/ *n* a British airforce rank —see **TABLE 3**

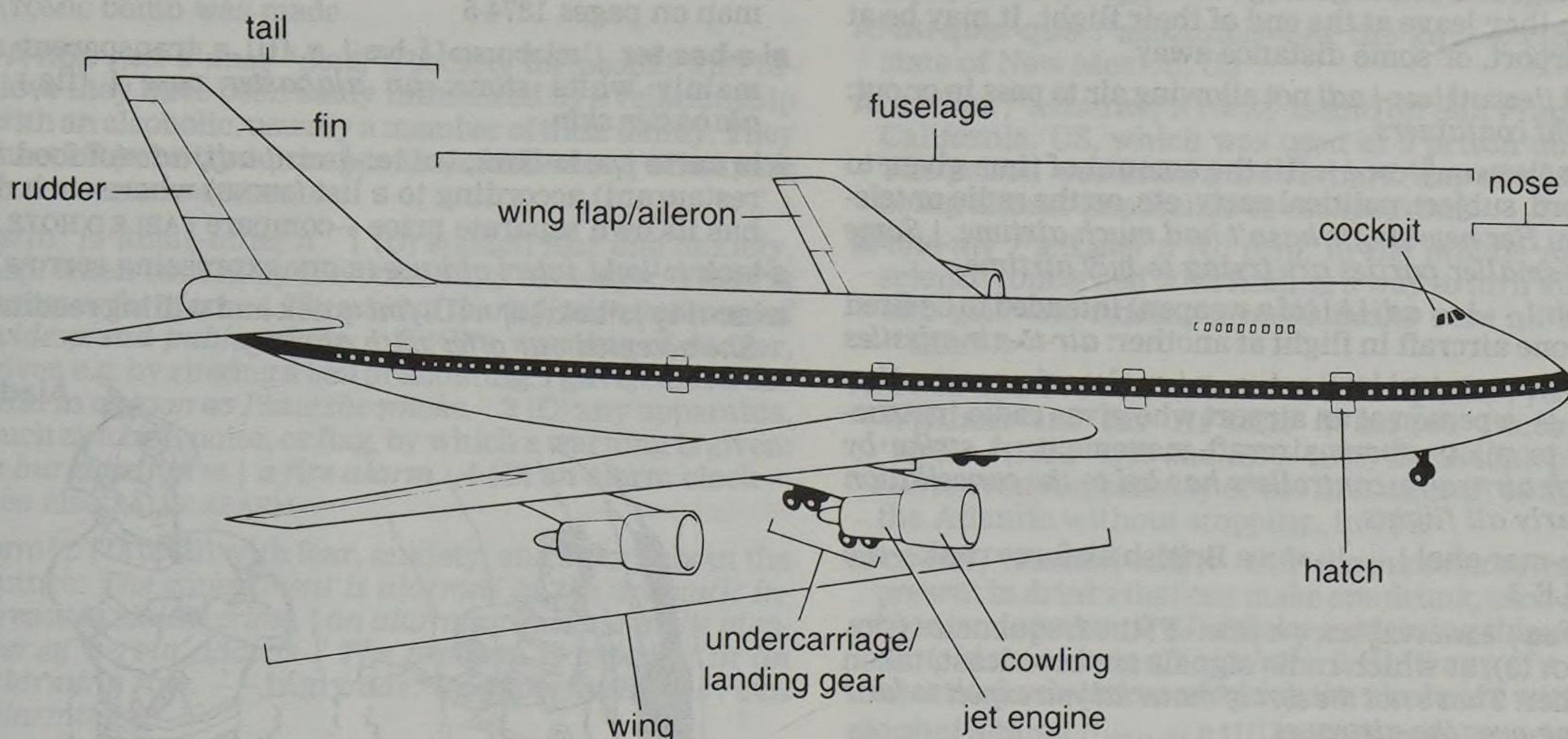
air-con-di-tion-ing /'ɹ. ,.../ *n* [U] the system that uses machines (**air-conditioners**) to control the temperature of the air in a room or building to keep it cool and dry —**tioned adj**: *Our offices are fully air-conditioned.*

air-craft /'eəkraɪft||'eəkræft/ *n* esp. *BrE* **-craft** a flying machine of any type, with or without an engine: *a jet aircraft* | *The airline has ordered 25 new aircraft.* | *the aircraft industry* —see also **ANTIAIRCRAFT**, **LIGHT AIRCRAFT**

aircraft car-ri-er /'ɹ. ,.../ *n* a **WARSHIP** that carries aircraft and has a large flat surface where they can take off and land

air-craft-man /'eəkraɪftmən||'eəkræft-/ also **air-crafts-man** /-kraɪfts-||-kræfts-/ *n* **-men** /mən/ a British airforce rank —see **TABLE 3**

air-crew /'eəkrʊ:||'eər-/ *n* [C+*sing./pl.* *v*] the pilot and others responsible for flying an aircraft, together with those who look after the comfort of the passengers



air-drop /'eədrɒp/ || 'eədrɔ:p/ *v* -pp- [T] to deliver (supplies or soldiers) by dropping from an aircraft — **airdrop** *n*

Aire /eə/ a river flowing through Yorkshire and Humber-side to the North Sea

air-fare /'eə,feə/ || 'eər-/ *n* the price of a journey by plane

air-field /'eəfild/ || 'eər-/ || also **aerodrome** *BrE* — *old-fash* — *n* a place where aircraft can land and take off but which may not have any large buildings — compare **AIRPORT**

air-force /'eəfɔ:s/ || 'eəfɔ:rs/ *n* [C+*sing./pl.* *v*] the branch of a country's military forces that is concerned with attack and defence from the air

Air Force One /, . . ' / the aircraft used by the American president

Air France /, . ' / the main French **AIRLINE**. Like British Airways, Air France flies the Concorde aircraft.

air fresh-en-er /, . . . / *n* [C;U] a substance used to make the air in a room smell fresh, sold either in a solid form, or as a liquid in an **AEROSOL** can

air-gun /'eəgʌn/ || 'eər-/ *n* a gun which uses strong air pressure to fire a bullet

air-head /'eəhed/ || 'eər-/ *n* *esp. AmE sl derog* a foolish or stupid person: *That checkout girl was a real airhead, she couldn't even make change from five dollars.*

air-host-ess /'eə,həʊstɪs/ || 'eər-/ *esp. BrE* || *usu. stewardess* *AmE* — *n* a woman who looks after the comfort of the passengers in an aircraft during flight. Air hostesses are *usu.* young, and are typically thought of as being tall, attractive, and with a good figure.

air-i-ly /'eəri.li/ *adv* in a light **AIRY** (2, 3) manner; not seriously

air-ing /'eəriŋ/ *n* **1** [U] the leaving of clothes, sheets, etc., in the open air or in a warm place to get thoroughly dry: *Give the sheets a good airing.* **2** [C *usu. sing.*] the making public of one's opinions, knowledge, ideas, etc., so that they can be freely talked about: *We had a meeting and gave the subject a good airing.*

airing cup-board /' . . . / *n* *BrE* a warm cupboard in which clothes, sheets, etc. are kept — see also **LINEN CUPBOARD**

air-lane /'eəleɪn/ || 'eər-/ *n* a path through the air regularly used by aircraft in flight

air-let-ter /'eə,letə/ || 'eər-/ also **aerogramme** — *n* a sheet of very thin paper already stamped for posting, on which a letter can be written and which is then folded and stuck at the edges and sent by air without an envelope

air-lift /'eə,lɪft/ || 'eər-/ *n* an operation by which large numbers of people or large amounts of supplies are carried by aircraft, *esp.* to or from a place that is difficult to get to — **airlift** *v* [T (to)]: *We airlifted food to the famine areas.*

air-line /'eəlaɪn/ || 'eər-/ *n* a business that runs a regular service for carrying passengers and goods by air

air-lin-er /'eə,ləɪnə/ || 'eər-/ *n* *old-fash* a large passenger aircraft

air-lock /'eələk/ || 'eərlɔ:k/ *n* **1** a **BUBBLE** in a tube or pipe that prevents the flow of a liquid **2** an enclosed space or room into which or from which air cannot accidentally pass, e.g. in a spacecraft or apparatus for working under water

air-mail /'eəmeɪl/ || 'eər-/ *n* [U] **1** letters, parcels, etc., sent by air — compare **SURFACE**³ (2) **2** the system of sending things by air: *Send it by airmail.* — **airmail** *adv*: *How much would it cost to send it airmail?*

air-man /'eəməŋ/ || 'eər-/ **airwoman** *fem.* — *n* -**men** /məŋ/ **1** a person of or below **NCO** rank in an airforce **2** a US airforce rank — see **TABLE 3** on page 0000

Air Miles /' . . / *n* [P] **1** *tdmk* a system of **VOUCHERS** (1) which are given away in Britain with certain items when one buys them, and which can be exchanged for flights with British Airways at a rate of roughly one voucher for each mile to be travelled **2** the organization which gives out the vouchers and controls their exchange

air-miss /'eə,mɪs/ || 'eər-/ *n* a situation in which one plane nearly crashes into another one while both are in the air

air-plane /'eəpleɪn/ || 'eər-/ *AmE* || **aeroplane** *BrE* — *n* a flying vehicle that has at least one engine; **PLANE**

air-pock-et /'eə,pɒkɪt/ || 'eər,pɔ:z-/ *n* a downward flow of air in the sky which can cause an aircraft to lose height suddenly

air-port /'eəpɔ:t/ || 'eərpɔ:rt/ *n* a place where aircraft can land and take off, which is regularly used by paying passengers and has several buildings (for waiting passengers, **CUSTOMS**, etc.): *Heathrow Airport, London* | *airport security* — compare **AIRFIELD**

air raid /' . . / *n* an attack by military aircraft

airs /eəz/ || 'eəz/ also **airs and graces** /, . . ' / — *n* [P] *derog* unnatural manners or actions that are intended to make people think one is more important than one really is (*esp.* in the phrase **give oneself airs, put on airs**)

air-sea res-cue /, . . ' / *n* [C;U] the saving of people in trouble at sea by both aircraft and ships or boats built for the purpose: *The air-sea rescue services sent helicopters and lifeboats.*

air-ship /'eə,ʃɪp/ || 'eər-/ *n* (*esp. formerly*) a large aircraft without wings, containing gas to make it lighter than air and an engine to make it move

air-sick /'eə,sɪk/ || 'eər-/ *adj* sick because of the movement of an aircraft — ~ **ness** *n* [U]

air-space /'eəspeɪs/ || 'eər-/ *n* [U] the air or sky above a particular country, regarded as the property of that country: *They claimed that foreign planes had entered Soviet airspace without permission.*

air-speed /'eəspi:d/ || 'eər-/ *n* [S;U] the speed at which an aircraft travels through the air

air-strip /'eə,stri:p/ || 'eər-/ *n* a stretch of land that can be used by aircraft to take off and land, *esp.* in war or time of trouble — compare **RUNWAY**

air ter·mi·nal /'ɑː, tər·mi·nəl/ *n* the building in which passengers come together before getting on board an aircraft or from which they leave at the end of their flight. It may be at the airport, or some distance away.

air-tight /'eətaɪt/ *adj* not allowing air to pass in or out: *airtight containers*

air-time /'eətaɪm/ *n* [U] the amount of time given to a record, subject, political party, etc. on the radio or television: *Her new single hasn't had much airtime.* | *Some of the smaller parties are trying to buy airtime.*

air-to-air /'eə, tə, eə/ *adj* [A] (of a weapon) intended to be fired from one aircraft in flight at another: *air-to-air missiles*

air traf·fic con·trol·ler /'eə, tráf·tík kən·tról·lər/ *n* also **air controller** /'eə, kən·tról·lər/ — a person at an airport who gives radio instructions to pilots about aircraft movement: *A strike by French air traffic controllers has led to the cancellation of nearly all flights.*

air vice-mar·shal /'eə, vɪs·mər·ʃəl/ *n* a British airforce rank — see TABLE 3

air-waves /'eəweɪvz/ *n* [the +P] the frequencies (FREQUENCY (3)) at which radio signals are broadcast, taken together: *That's not the sort of material you expect to hear coming over the airwaves.*

air-way /'eəweɪ/ *n* (usu. cap. as part of a name) an AIRLINE: *British Airways*

air-wom·an /'eə, wʊmən/ *n* -women /,wɪmɪn/ a female AIRMAN

air-wor·thy /'eə, wɜːðɪ/ *adj* (of an aircraft) in proper and safe working condition — **thiness** *n* [U] : a certificate of airworthiness

air-y /'eəri/ *adj* 1 open to the fresh air: *The large window makes the room seem airy.* 2 also **airy-fair-y** /'eəri, faɪ·rɪ/ — derog BrE seeming not to be related to real facts or conditions; impractical: *She has these airy-fairy notions about going back to nature and growing all her own food.* 3 cheerful; not serious; NONCHALANT: *an airy smile*

aisle /aɪl/ *n* 1 a passage, usually one of two, leading through the length of a church and divided from the NAVE (=the central part) by a row of PILLARS — see picture at CHURCH 2 a narrow passage between rows of seats, shelves, etc., e.g. in a theatre, plane, or large shop — see picture at THEATRE — see also **roll in the aisles** (ROLL¹) 3 **go/walk up the aisle** *infml* to get married: *She was looking forward to the day when she would walk up the aisle.*

aitch /eɪtʃ/ *n* 1 a way of spelling the name of the letter *H*, *h* 2 **drop one's aitches** not to sound the letter *h* in one's speech, for example by saying 'ome for *home*. In Britain, some people think that people who drop their aitches are from a low social class and uneducated.

a-jar /ə'dʒɑː/ *adj, adv* [F] (of a door) not quite closed; slightly open

A-jax /'eɪdʒæks/ *n* [U] *tdmk* a cleaning substance made by Colgate-Palmolive Limited, used to remove dirt from esp. floors

AK *written abbrev. for:* ALASKA

ak·a /'ækə, 'eɪ keɪ 'eɪ/ also known as; used to introduce another name that someone has: *John Wayne, aka "The Duke"*

Ak·a·bu·si /'ækə, 'bʊsɪ/, **Kriss** /krɪs/ (1958–) a British runner and captain of the British ATHLETICS team known for his lively personality and his CHRISTIAN faith

A·ke·la /'ɑː, 'keɪlə/ *n* the title of one of the adult leaders of the Cub Scouts or Wolf Cubs in the Scout organization

Ak·i·hi·to /'ækɪ, 'hiːtəʊ/, 'ɑː-/ (1933–) the EMPEROR of Japan, the son of the Emperor Hirohito

a·kim·bo /ə'kɪmbəʊ/ *adj, adv* [F] (of the arms) bent at the elbows and with hands on the HIPS; people stand with their arms akimbo when they are facing other people bravely or threateningly

a·kin /ə'kɪn/ *adj* [F (to)] having the same appearance, character, or nature; similar: *His position in the Soviet system is roughly akin to that of the US President's public relations adviser.*

AL *written abbrev. for:* ALABAMA

à la /'ælə, 'ɑːlə/ *prep infml* in the manner of; like: *spy stories à la James Bond* | *She went about it à la Thatcher, putting her views very forcefully.*

Al·a·ba·ma /'ælə, 'bæmə/ *written abbrev. AL* a state in the

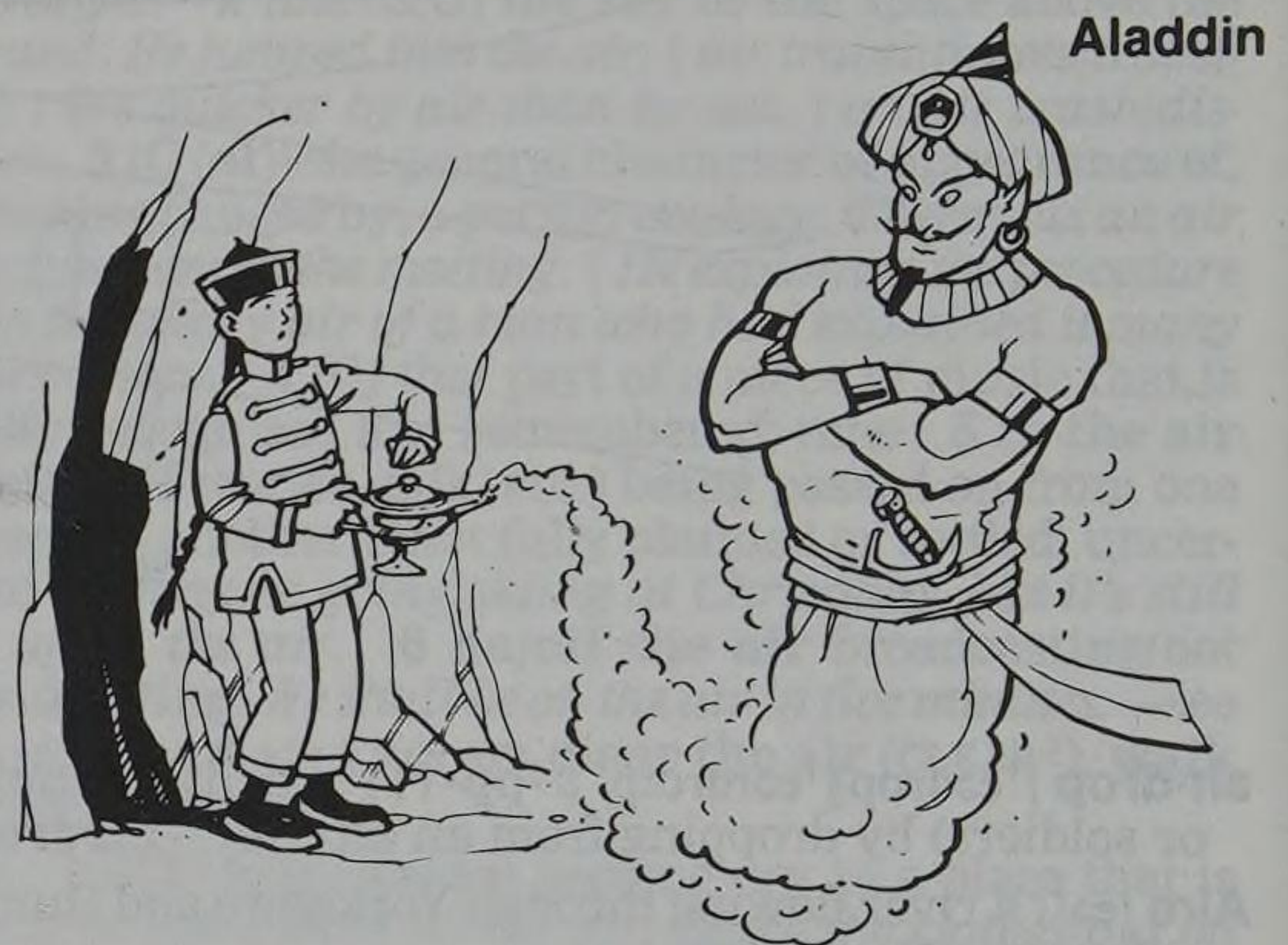
south of the US, where the movement to win rights for black people began. — see also DEEP SOUTH and see colour map on pages 1374-5

al·a·bas·ter /'æləbəstə/ *n* [U] a transparent soft mainly white stone: *an alabaster vase* | (fig.) *her alabaster skin*

à la carte /'ælə, 'kɑːt, 'ɑːlə-||-ɑːrt/ *adj, adv* (of food in a restaurant) according to a list (MENU) where each dish has its own separate price — compare TABLE D'HÔTE

a·lack /ə'læk/ *interj* old use (a cry expressing sorrow)

a·lac·ri·ty /ə'lækriːti/ *n* [U] *fml* quick and willing readiness: *She accepted our offer with alacrity.*



Aladdin

A-lad·din /ə'lædɪn/ a character in a story from the *Arabian Nights* who is employed by a MAGICIAN to obtain a lamp from an underground cave full of jewels and wonderful things. When Aladdin finds the lamp and rubs it, a GENIE appears and says that it will give Aladdin anything he wants. Aladdin keeps the lamp and makes himself rich until the magician takes possession of it from Aladdin's wife by pretending to be a MERCHANT (=a buyer and seller of goods) and offering "new lamps for old". Aladdin finally finds him, kills him, and regains the lamp. The story of Aladdin is often told in PANTOMIMES in Britain. — see also ARABIAN NIGHTS

Aladdin's Cave



Aladdin's Cave /'ælədɪn, 'kæv/ *n* a place filled with strange, lovely things: *an Aladdin's Cave of unusual ideas and gifts for the home*

Aladdin's lamp /'ælədɪn, 'læmp/ *n* a magic lamp with a GENIE in it used by Aladdin

à la king /'ælə, 'kɪŋ/ *adj* AmE cooked in cream with green pepper and PIMENTOS: *chicken à la king*

Al·a·mein /'æləmeɪn/ also **El Alamein** — a place in N Africa where the British won an important battle against the Germans in the Second World War. The British side was led by Field-Marshal Montgomery, known as Monty.

Al·a·mo /'æləməʊ/ [the] an army building in San Antonio in Texas famous in American history because it was defended in 1836 against several THOUSAND Mexicans by only about 180 men led by Davy Crockett. The men all died, but their courage caused others to defeat the Mexicans. The phrase "Remember the Alamo!" is sometimes used to encourage people to continue doing something very difficult. — see also MEXICAN WAR

à la mode /'ælə, 'məʊd, 'ɑːlə-/ *adj, adv* 1 [F] according to the latest fashion 2 [after *n*] AmE served with ice cream: *apple pie à la mode*

Al-a-mo-gor-do /ˌæləməˈɡɔːdəʊ/ -'gɔːr-/ a town in the US state of New Mexico, near where the first test of an ATOMIC bomb was made

Al-A-non /ˌæl əˈnɒn/ -'nɔːn/ a society for people who believe they have been badly influenced by a relationship with an alcoholic, usually a member of their family. They meet often to try to change their behaviour —compare ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

a-larm¹ /əˈlɑːm/ -ɑːrm/ *n* 1 [U] sudden fear and anxiety, esp. when caused by the possibility of danger: *There is no cause for alarm.* | *The news of the radiation leak caused widespread public alarm.* 2 [C] a warning of danger, given e.g. by ringing a bell or shouting: *I gave/raised the alarm as soon as I saw the smoke.* 3 [C] any apparatus, such as a bell, noise, or flag, by which a warning is given: *a burglar alarm* | *a fire alarm* 4 [C] an alarm clock — see also FALSE ALARM

alarm² *v* [T] to fill with fear, anxiety, and worry about the future: *The government is alarmed by the dramatic increase in violent crime.* | *an alarming increase in the number of heroin addicts* | *The problem is growing at an alarming rate.* — *~ingly adv*: *Unemployment has risen alarmingly.*

alarm clock /ˌɑːl.əm ˈklɒk/ also **alarm**— *n* a clock that can be set to make a noise at any particular time to wake up someone who is asleep: *What time shall I set the alarm (clock) for?* —compare RADIO ALARM, and see picture at CLOCK

a-larm-ist /əˈlɑːmɪst/ -'lɑːr-/ *n* *derog* a person who always expects danger, often without good reason, and alarms other people with fears and warnings —**alarmist** *adj*: *Don't be so alarmist — it's all under control.* —**-ism** *n* [U]

a-las /əˈlæs/ *interj* *lit* (a cry expressing sorrow or fear) — see also **alas**, **poor Yorick** (YORICK)

A-las-ka /əˈlæskə/ *written abbrev.* **AK** the largest state in the US, separated from the rest of the country by Canada —see also BAKED ALASKA — **-kan** *adj*

Al-ba-ni-a /ælˈbeɪniə/ a country in Europe on the Adriatic Sea; capital Tirana; population 3,202,000 (1989) — **Albanian** *adj*

Al-ba-ni-an /ælˈbeɪniən/ *n* 1 [C] a person who comes from or whose parents come from Albania 2 [U] the language spoken in Albania

Al-ba-ny /ˈɔːlbəni/ the capital city of the state of New York in the US

al-ba-tross /ˈælbətrɒs/ -trɒs, -traɪs/ *n* -**trosses** or -**tross** 1 a large strong mostly white seabird that can fly long distances 2 **an albatross around/about one's neck** a continuous reminder that one has done something wrong (from Samuel Taylor Coleridge's poem *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*, in which a sailor kills an albatross that is then hung around his neck to show that he has brought bad luck to the ship): *His remark has become a political albatross around his neck.* | *The new tax was proving to be an electoral albatross.*

Al-bee /ˈælbɪː/ , **Edward** (1928–) an American writer of plays, known esp. for the plays *Zoo Story* and *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*

al-be-it /ɔːlˈbɪɪt/ *conj* *fml* even though; although: *It was a very important, albeit small, mistake.* | *Attitudes to this question are changing, albeit slowly.*

Al-bert /ˈælbət/ -bəɪrt/ , **Prince** (1819–1861) the husband of Queen Victoria of Britain, known for his interest in the arts, and in social and industrial advancement

Al-ber-ta /ælˈbɜːtə/ -ɜːr-/ a PROVINCE in W Canada

Albert Dock /ˌɜːl.əbɜːt ˈdɒk/ a DOCK (1) in Liverpool, known for the Victorian WAREHOUSES built on it, now popular for its shops and restaurants

Albert Hall /ˌɜːl.əbɜːt ˈhɒl/ also **Royal Albert Hall** *fml*— [the] a very large concert hall in London known esp. for its PROMENADE CONCERTS —see colour map on page 817

al-bi-no /ælˈbɪznəʊ/ -'baɪ-/ *n* -**nos** a person or animal with a pale milky skin, very light hair, and eyes that are pink because of a lack of colouring matter

Al-bi-on /ˈælbɪən/ *old use, poet* England or Great Britain

al-bum /ˈælbəm/ *n* 1 a book used for collecting photographs, stamps, etc. 2 an LP (=a long-playing RECORD)

al-bu-men /ˈælbjʊmɪn/ -'bjʊz-/ *n* [U] the white or colourless part of an egg

Al-bu-quer-que /ˈælbəkɜːki/ -ɜːr-/ the largest city in the state of New Mexico, US

Al-ca-traz /ˈælkətræz/ a rocky island off San Francisco in California, US, which was used as a prison until 1963. The prison was known for its hard way of life and for being almost impossible to escape from.

al-che-my /ˈælkəmi/ *n* [U] (esp. in the Middle Ages) the science concerned with finding a way to turn all metals into gold and finding a medicine to cure all diseases —**mist** *n*

Al-cock and Brown /ˌɔːlkɒk ənd ˈbraʊn/ -kɑːk-/ , **Sir John William** and **Sir Ar-thur Whit-ten** /ˈɑːθə ˈwɪtn/ -'ɑːrθər-/ (1892–1919 and 1886–1948) the British pilot and NAVIGATOR respectively of the first aircraft to fly across the Atlantic without stopping, in 1919

al-co-hol /ˈælkəhɒl/ -hɔːl/ *n* 1 [U] the pure colourless liquid present in drinks that can make one drunk, such as wine, beer, and SPIRITS 2 [U] drinks containing this: *The doctor told me to keep off alcohol.* 3 [C;U] any of a class of chemical substances of which the alcohol in wine is one

alcohol a-buse /ˈ... ˌ.ə. / *n* [U] *tech* the regular drinking of too much alcohol, so that it is harmful to a person's health

alcohol-free /ˌ... ˌ.ə. / *adj* (of a drink such as beer or wine) with all the alcohol removed. Alcohol-free drinks have become popular since the laws against DRINK-DRIVING were made firmer.

al-co-hol-ic¹ /ˌælkəˈhɒlɪk/ -'hɔː-/ *adj* 1 containing alcohol: *alcoholic beverages/drinks* —opposite **non-alcoholic** 2 of or caused by the drinking of alcohol: *alcoholic self-pity* — *~ ally* /kli/ *adv*

alcoholic² *n* a person who is unable to stop the habit of drinking too much alcohol, esp. one whose health is damaged because of this —compare DRUNKARD

Alcoholics A-non-y-mous /ˌ... ˌ.ə. / also **AA** *abbrev.* an organization for alcoholics who want to cure themselves, and meet regularly to help each other —compare AL-ANON

al-co-hol-is-m /ˈælkəhɒlɪzəm/ -hɔː-/ *n* [U] the diseased condition caused by the continued and habitual drinking of too much alcohol

Al-cott /ˈɔːlkət/ -kɑːt/ , **Lou-i-sa May** /luˈiːzə ˈmeɪ/ (1832–88) an American writer whose books for children include *Little Women* and *Good Wives*

al-cove /ˈælkəʊv/ *n* a small partly enclosed space in a room, in a garden wall, etc.; RECESS: *seats in the alcove*

Al-de-burgh /ˈɔːldbərə/ -bɜːrəʊ/ a town on the Suffolk coast of England where a music FESTIVAL is held every summer

al den-te /æl ˈdenti, -teɪ/ *adj* (of PASTA and vegetables) cooked just enough to be still firm when bitten

al-der-man /ˈɔːldəmən/ -dər-/ *n* -**men** /mən/ 1 (in Britain before 1974) a member of a town, city, or COUNTY council who was chosen by the elected members 2 (esp. in the US) a local government officer having various duties — *~ ic* /ˌɔːldəˈmænɪk/ -ər-/ *adj*

Al-der-grove Air-port /ˌɔːldəgrəʊv ˈeəpɔːrt/ -dərgrəʊv ˈeəpɔːrt/ the international airport in Belfast in Northern Ireland

Al-der-mas-ton /ˈɔːldəˌmɑːstən/ -dərˌmæs-/ a village in Berkshire, England, which is known as a place near where RESEARCH is carried out into atomic weapons. People think of Aldermaston esp. in connection with the protest marches by CND in the 1950s and 60s, when many people walked from London to Aldermaston to show their strong feelings against the research.

Al-der-ney¹ /ˈɔːldəni/ -dər-/ *n* a breed of cow kept for milk: *Alderney cattle*

Alderney² one of the islands in the English Channel, between England and France

Al-der-shot /ˈɔːldəʃɒt/ -dərʃɔːt/ a town in Hampshire, S England known for its long association with the army

Al-diss /ˈɔːldɪs/ , **Bri-an** /ˈbraɪən/ (1925–) a British writer of SCIENCE FICTION

ale /eɪl/ *n* [U] any of several types of beer, esp. a kind that is particularly bitter, strong, and heavy —see also LIGHT ALE, REAL ALE

al-eck /ˈæljɛk/ *n* see SMART ALECK

ale-house /'eɪlhaʊs/ *n* **-houses** /,haʊzɪz/ *old use* a public drinking place

a-lert¹ /ə'li:t||-ɜ:t/ *adj* **1** [(to)] watchful and ready to deal with danger; **VIGILANT**: *alert to every possible danger* **2** *apprec* quick to see and act; **PERCEPTIVE**: *an alert mind* — *~ly adv* — *~ness n* [U]

alert² *n* **1** a warning to be ready for danger: *to sound the alert* | *a nuclear alert* — **opposite** **all clear**; see also **RED ALERT** **2 on (the) alert (for)** in a state of being ready to deal with danger, esp. after a warning

alert³ *v* [T (to)] to make (someone) watchful and ready for possible danger: *a campaign to alert the public to the dangers of smoking*

A-leu-tian Is-lands /ə'lu:ʃən ,aɪləndz/ a group of islands off the coast of Alaska

A lev-el /'eɪ ,levəl/ also **advanced level** — *n* **1** [U] the higher standard of examination in the British education system, necessary for entrance to a university **2** [C] an examination of this standard in a particular subject, usually taken at the age of 18. Students usually take 3 or 4 A levels: *She took A levels in physics, chemistry, and mathematics.* — **compare** **O LEVEL**, **GCSE** see also **extra information** on page 408

ale-wife /'eɪlwaɪf/ **-wives** /waɪvz/ *n* a sea fish, related to the **HERRING**, which is found along the Atlantic coast of N America and used for food, **BAIT**, and **FERTILIZER**

Al-ex-an-der tech-nique /,æɪg'zɑ:ndə tek,nɪ:k||-'zændər-/ [*the*] a system of sitting, standing, and moving in a natural way, which is believed to help to improve general health or cure particular problems caused by using one's body carelessly: *She teaches the Alexander technique.*

Alexander the Great /.., .. -' / (356–323 BC) the King of Macedonia who ruled over much of Asia and founded (**FOUND** (2)) **Alexandria**

Al-ex-an-dra Pal-ace /,æɪg'zɑ:ndrə 'pælɪs||-'zæn-/ a large building in N London used for concerts since 1873, and famous because it was used as **STUDIOS** by the **BBC**

Al-ex-an-dri-a /,æɪg'zɑ:ndriə||-'zæn-/ a city and port in Egypt, on the Mediterranean coast, famous in the past as a place of great learning and for its library

ALF /,eɪ el 'ef/ *abbrev. for*: **ANIMAL LIBERATION FRONT**

al-fal-fa /æl'fælfə/ *n* [U] *esp. AmE* a plant of the **PEA** family grown for animal food. The young undeveloped plants (**alfalfa sprouts**) are also eaten by people, esp. in **SALADS**

Al-fa Ro-me-o /,ælfə rəʊ'meɪəʊ/ *n* *tdmk* a type of Italian car which is fashionable and can go very fast

Al-fred the Great /,æɪfrɛd θə 'greɪt/ (849–899) a king of Wessex, an area of southern England at that time, who fought several wars against the Danes. When British people think about King Alfred, they usually think about the well-known story in which he burnt some cakes in a woman's house where he was hiding.

al-fres-co /æl'freskəʊ/ *adj, adv* in the open air: *We eat al-fresco in summer.* | *an al-fresco theatrical performance*

al-gae /'æɪdʒi:/ *n* [P] very simple, usu. very small plants that live in or near water

Al-gar-ve /æl'gɑ:v||æɪ'gɑ:rvə/ [*the*] an area of southern Portugal which is popular for holidays

al-ge-bra /'æɪdʒɪbrə/ *n* [U] a branch of **MATHEMATICS** in which signs and letters are used to represent numbers and values — **~ic(al)** /,æɪdʒɪ'breɪ-ɪk(əl)/ *adj* — **~ically** /kli/ *adv*

Al-ger /'æɪdʒər/-, **Ho-ra-ti-o** /hə'reɪʃiəʊ/ (1832–99) an American writer, many of whose stories are about poor boys who became rich and successful men through hard work and taking advantage of lucky situations

Al-ge-ri-a /æl'dʒɪəriə/ an oil producing country in NW Africa; capital **Algiers**; population 24,597,000 (1989) — **Algerian** *adj, n*

Al-giers /æl'dʒɪəz||-ɪərz/ the capital city of Algeria, an ancient Mediterranean port

ALGOL /'æɪgɒl||-gɑ:l/ *n* *tech* [U] a computer language: *a program written in ALGOL* | *an ALGOL program*

Al-gon-quin Round Ta-ble /æl,gɒŋkwɪn raʊnd 'teɪbəl||-gɑ:ŋ-/ [*the*] the place in New York's Algonquin Hotel where many writers met and exchanged ideas from the 1920s to the 1940s

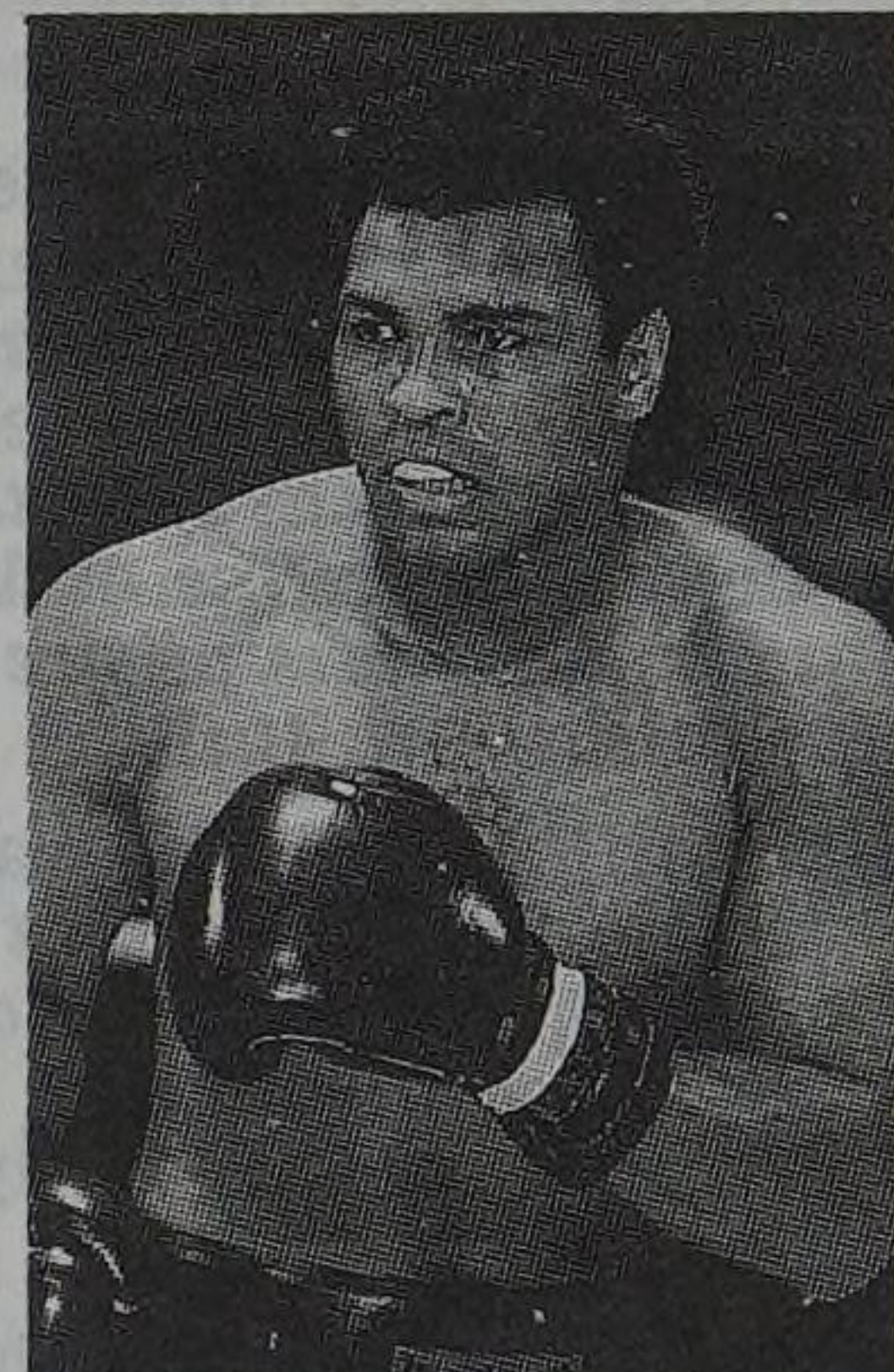
al-go-rith-m /'æɪlgərɪðəm/ *n* *tech* a list of instructions, esp. to a computer, which are carried out in a fixed order to

find the answer to a question, calculate, etc. — **~ic** /,æɪlgə'rɪðmɪk-/ *adj*

Al-ham-bra /æl'hæmbərə/ a palace near Granada in Spain, built between 1238 and 1358 for **MUSLIM** kings and considered to be a fine example of the Moorish (**MOOR**) style of building

A-li /ɑ:'li/, **Muhammad** (1942–) an American **BOXER**, born **Cassius Clay**, who won the world **HEAVYWEIGHT** title in 1964, 1974, and 1978. He was known esp. for his self-confidence, shown by the phrase "I am the greatest", which he often used.

Muhammad Ali



a-li-as¹ /'eɪliəs/ *adv* (esp. of a criminal) also known as; also called: *Edward Ball alias John Smith*

alias² *n* **aliases** a name other than one's usual or officially recognized name, used esp. by a criminal; a false name: *He carried out a series of frauds using/under several different aliases.*

Al-i Ba-ba /,æɪli 'bɑ:bɑ:||,ɑ:-/ a character in a story from the *Arabian Nights* with the title of "Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves". Ali Baba sees 40 robbers enter a hidden cave by saying the words "Open Sesame!" He goes into the cave and takes some of the gold the robbers kept there. When the robbers discover that Ali Baba knows their secret, they decide to kill him and hide in 40 large, oil **JARS** which are delivered to Ali Baba's house, but his servant discovers the trick and pours boiling oil on them, killing them all. — **see also** **ARABIAN NIGHTS**, **ALADDIN**, **SINDBAD**

al-i-bi /'æɪlɪbaɪ/ *n* an argument or proof that a person who has been charged with a crime was in another place when the crime was done and that he/she therefore could not have done it: *Jim's girlfriend gave him a cast-iron (=very strong) alibi by saying that he was with her on the night of the robbery.* | (fig.) *What's your alibi (=excuse) for being late this time?*

Al-ice in Won-der-land /,æɪlɪs ɪn 'wʌndərlænd||-dər-/ also **Alice's Ad-ven-tures in Won-der-land** — /,... .. -'.../ a story by Lewis Carroll, in which a little girl called Alice falls down a rabbit hole and comes to a magical land where many strange animals and people appear and funny things happen. The expression **Alice-in-Wonderland** is sometimes used to describe something strange or unreal, as if in a dream: *Medical practice has taken on an Alice-in-Wonderland quality: first the treatment, then the diagnosis.* — **see** colour picture on page 619

Alice Springs /,æɪlɪs 'sprɪŋz/ a town in Australia's Northern Territory, popular with tourists

a-li-en¹ /'eɪliən/ *adj* **1** belonging to another country or race; foreign: *alien religious customs* | *an alien culture* **2** [(to)] very different in nature or character, esp. so different as to cause dislike or opposition: *Their ideas are quite alien to our way of thinking.* | *an alien concept*

alien² *n* **1** (in films and stories) a creature from another world **2** a foreigner who has not become a citizen of the country where he/she is living — **compare** **CITIZEN**¹ (2), **NATIONAL**², **SUBJECT**¹ (5)

a-li-en-ate /'eɪliəneɪt/ *v* [T (from)] **1** to make (someone) become unfriendly, unsympathetic, or unwilling to give support: *By adopting this policy, they risk alienating many of their supporters.* **2** *law* to change who owns (land, property, etc.) — **see also** **INALIENABLE**

a-li-en-a-tion /,eɪliə'neɪʃən/ *n* [U (from)] **1** separation from a person with whom one was formerly friendly **2** a feeling of not belonging to or being part of one's surroundings: *The boring and repetitive nature of manufacturing jobs has led to the alienation of many workers.*

a-light¹ /ə'laɪt/ *v* **alighted** or **alit** /ə'laɪt/- [I (from, on)] *fml* to get off or down from something, esp. at the end of a journey; come down from above: *The bird alighted on a branch.* | *Passengers should not alight from the train until it has stopped.*

alight on/upon sthg. *phr v* [T] *fml* becoming rare to find or see unexpectedly; HAPPEN on

alight² *adj* [F] **1** on fire; in flames: *The dry leaves caught alight.* (=began to burn) | *She poured kerosene over the rubbish and then set it alight.* (=lit it) **2** [(with)] having the lights on; lit up: *Every window was alight.* | (fig.) *eyes alight with happiness*

a-align /ə'laɪn/ *v* [T] to bring, form, or arrange into a line or set of lines: *to align the wheels of a car*

align sbdy./sthg. with sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] **1** to cause to come into the same line as: *to align a picture with one directly opposite it* **2** to bring (oneself) into agreement or partnership with: *They aligned themselves with the opponents of the government.* | *They are closely aligned with the opponents of the government.* —see also NON-ALIGNED

a-align-ment /ə'laɪnmənt/ *n* **1** [U] the state of being brought or arranged into a line or set of lines: *The wheels are out of alignment (with each other) — they need to be brought back into alignment.* **2** [U] (of people or countries with the same aims, ideas, etc.) the act of forming into groups, e.g. in order to fight a war —opposite **nonalignment** **3** [C] a group formed in this way: *a new alignment of left-wing parties*

a-like /ə'laɪk/ *adj, adv* [F] the same or similar; like one another: *The two brothers are very much alike.* | *She treats all her children alike.* | *a training course for employed and unemployed alike* (=for both equally)

al-i-men-ta-ry ca-nal /,ælɪməntəri kə'næl/ *n* the tubelike passage leading from the mouth to the stomach and onward, in which food passes from the mouth and is digested (DIGEST¹)

al-i-mo-ny /'ælɪməni||-məuni/ *n* [U] money that a man or woman has been ordered to pay regularly to his/her former partner after they have been legally separated or divorced (DIVORCE). It is usu. the man who is ordered to pay alimony to the woman to help her support their children until they are old enough to leave home. —compare PALIMONY

a-lit /ə'lit/ *past tense & participle of ALIGHT*¹

a-live /ə'laɪv/ *adj* [F] **1** [no comp.] having life; not dead; living: *Are your grandparents still alive?* | *He's the only man alive who could do it.* | (fig.) *local traditions that are still alive and well in rural regions* | (fig.) *The argument was kept alive by the politicians.* **2** full of life; active: *Although he's old, he's still very much alive.* | *The meeting really came alive* (=became lively) *when she stood up to make her speech.* **3** [(with)] covered with or full of living things: *The dead tree is alive with insects.* **4** [+to] having full knowledge of; AWARE: *He was alive to the dangers of the work.* **5** **alive and kicking** alive and very active **6** **alive and well and living in...** a phrase used, esp. in newspapers, when saying that someone who was believed dead is in fact still alive: *She is reported to be alive and well and living in South America.*

al-ka-li /'ælkəlaɪ/ *n* -lis or -lies [C;U] *tech* a substance that forms a chemical salt when combined with an acid — compare ACID¹ (1) —line *adj*

Al-ka-Sel-tzer /,ælkə 'seltzər||'ælkə seltzər/ *tdmk* a medicine which is added to water to make a FIZZY drink and is used to treat stomach problems such as those caused by eating or drinking too much

all¹ /ɔ:l/ *determiner, predeterminer* **1** the complete amount or quantity of; the whole of: *He ate all his food.* | *He ate it all.* | *We walked all the way.* | *We worked hard all last year.* | *Not all water is suitable for drinking.* | *They danced all night.* (compare *They danced every night.*) | *She's on the telephone all the time.* (=very often) **2** every one of: *All these questions must be answered.* | *Answer them all.* | *They must all be answered.* | *All children like toys.* | *We bought all kinds of things.* | *Ten students took the exam and they all passed.* | *She was, by all accounts* (=everyone says so) *an extraordinary woman.* **3** the greatest possible amount of: *The doctor came with all speed.* | *I must tell you, in all honesty, that I don't agree.* **4** influenced or controlled as if by (the stated body organ): *He was all ears* (=he listened very carefully) *as she recounted the strange story.* | *I can't play the piano today; I seem to be all thumbs.* **5** **all in: a** *infml* very tired: *I felt all in by the end of the day.* **b** with everything included: *I sold the car, together with the radio and some spare parts, for £2000 all in.* | *an all-in price of £2000* — see also ALL-IN WRESTLING **6** **all out** *infml* using all

possible strength and effort: *We went all out/made an all-out effort to finish the job by Christmas.* —see also ALL-PURPOSE, ALL-STAR, ALL-TIME, **all fours** (FOUR), **of all people** (PEOPLE¹), **(all) well and good** (WELL¹)

all² *adv* **1** [+adj/adv/prep] altogether; completely; wholly: *She sat all alone.* | *The old lady gets all confused when she has a lot of visitors.* | *I am all in favour of/all for your suggestion.* | *They were dressed all in black.* | *The programme was all about the dangers of smoking.* **2** (after numbers) for each side: *The match ended in a draw, with the score three all.* **3** **all along** *infml* all the time from the beginning: *I suspected all along that he was lying.* **4** **all at once** suddenly and unexpectedly **5** **all but** almost; nearly: *It's all but impossible.* | *an all but impossible task* **6** **all over: a** everywhere on an object or surface: *There was mud all over the floor.* | *Paint it green all over!* **b** everywhere in a place: *He looked all over for the lost book.* | *We travelled all over India.* **c** finished: *The referee has blown his whistle, and it's all over!* (=the game has finished) **d** *infml* very like; thoroughly typical: *He's always late; that's Billy all over.* **7** **all the** (with COMPARATIVE adjectives and adverbs) by so much: *If we get help the work will be finished all the sooner.* | *The rise in prices is all the more serious because we are not selling enough goods abroad.* **8** **all the same** *infml* even so; in any case: *She told me she hadn't enjoyed the film, but I decided to go and see it all the same.* **9** **all the same to** *infml* not making any difference or causing any worry to: *It's all the same to me whether you stay or go.* | *If it's all the same to you, I'll turn the radio off.* (=Do you mind if I turn it off?) **10** **all told** counting everyone; all together: *There are 48 members all told.* **11** **all too** very; much more than is desirable: *These scenes of violence are all too familiar.* **12** **all up (with)** *infml* at an end; ruined **13** **not all that** *infml* not very: *I'm not all that hungry.* | *It's not as cold as all that.* **14** (not) **all there** *infml* (not) clever or healthy in the mind: *I don't think he's quite all there.* —see also ALL CLEAR, ALL-POWERFUL, ALL RIGHT, ALL ROUND, ALL-ROUND

all³ *pron* **1** everyone or everything; the whole number, quantity, or amount: *I brought all of them.* | *He gave all he had.* | *We invited 100 people but not all of them came.* | *It'll cost all of* (=at least) *£5000.* | *They ate the whole fish; bones, tail, and all.* | *It's easy to put the fence up — all you need is a hammer and some nails.* **2** **all and sundry** all types of people: *They've invited all and sundry to the wedding.* **3** **all for one and one for all** saying we must all support each other and act together **4** **all in all** considering everything; on the whole; generally: *All in all we had a good time.* **5** **all one can do (not) to** *infml* very difficult (not) to: *It was all he could do not to cry.* **6** (not) **at all** (in questions and negatives) (not) in any way: *I don't agree with you at all.* | *It was late, but they were not at all tired.* | *He's not looking at all well.* (=he looks ill) | *The government has done nothing at all to deal with the problem.* | *Is it at all possible that you have made a mistake?* —see also **for all** (FOR), **in all** (IN), **not at all** (NOT), **once (and) for all** (ONCE)

▷ USAGE **1** You can use **all** or **all of** before nouns with a determiner (such as *the, those, his*): **All (of) the students are coming to the party** (=the students we are talking about). **All**, not **all of** is used before nouns without a determiner: **All students hate exams.** (=students in general) **2** **All of** is used before personal pronouns: *I'd like all of you to come.* But you can put **all** after the pronoun: *They all like parties.* | *I'd like you all to come.* **3** **All** is singular with uncountable nouns: **All (of) the money is spent.** It is plural with plural nouns: **All (of) the people have gone.** ◁

all⁴ *n* **one's all** *esp. lit* everything one possesses or considers valuable: *They gave their all in the struggle for freedom.*

all- see WORD FORMATION

Al-lah /'ælə/ (the Muslim name for) God

all-A-mer-i-can¹ /,ɔ:.'æm.ɪ.'kæn/ *adj* **1** having those qualities thought to be admired by Americans. Most British people have an idea of the all-American man or woman as being young, attractive, healthy, and rich, and very keen to be successful, but also insincere, and not very clever. Many Americans, though, see the all-American man or woman as usu. middle-class, white, and as representing American values that have been passed down from the past to the present: *a clean-cut all-American boy* | *an all-*

American family, cheerful and friendly **2** representing the best in American sports, esp. in university: *an All-American player out of UCLA*

All-American² *n* a player who has been chosen as one of the best in his or her sport in university: *He made All-American last year in football.*

Al-lan-a-Dale /,ælən ə 'deɪl/ one of Robin Hood's companions and a musician —see ROBIN HOOD

all-a-round /,ɔː.ə.ʔ/ *adj* AmE for ALL-ROUND

al-lay /ə'leɪ/ *v* [T] *fml* to make (fear, anger, doubt, etc.) less strong; calm; reduce in strength or severity: *I hope this statement will allay the public's fears.*

All Blacks /,ɔː.ə.ʔ/ *n* [the + P] a New Zealand RUGBY UNION team

All-Bran /'ɔː.ə.ʔ/ *n* *tdmk* [U] a breakfast food which contains a lot of BRAN and is eaten with milk

all clear /,ɔː.ə.ʔ/ *n* [the] **1** a signal (such as a whistle or loud cry) that danger is past: *to sound the all clear* —opposite **alert** **2** official permission for an intended action; GO-AHEAD: *We're ready to start the building work, and we're just waiting for the all clear from the council.*

all-com-ers /,ɔːl 'kʌməz||-ərz/ *n* [P] anyone who arrives and wishes to compete: *He fiercely defended his right to speak out against all-comers.*

al-le-ga-tion /,æli 'geɪʃən/ *n* *fml* a statement, which is not supported by proof, that someone has done something bad or criminal: *allegations of serious misconduct by government officials* | *If the allegations against him prove correct/prove to be well-founded, he will lose his job.*

al-lege /ə'ledʒ/ *v* [T] *fml* to state or declare without proof or before finding proof: [+ (that)] *The newspapers allege that the police shot the suspect without warning.* | *This is what they allege, but they are unlikely to be able to prove it.* [+obj+to-v] *He is alleged to have passed on secret information to a newspaper.* | *an alleged thief* | *under investigation for alleged fraud* —**allegedly** /ə'ledʒɪdli/ *adv*: *He was allegedly involved in the great jewel robbery.* (=according to what is alleged)

Al-le-ghen-y Moun-tains /,æljə'geɪni 'maʊntənz/ also **Alleghenies** /,æljə'geɪni/ a range of mountains, part of the Appalachian range, which runs from Virginia to Pennsylvania in the US

al-le-giance /ə'li:dʒəns/ *n* [C;U (to)] loyalty, faith, and dutiful support to a leader, country, idea, etc.: *to swear allegiance to the Queen* | *His allegiances are divided.* | *Their marketing manager switched allegiance from the company to their main competitor.* —see also PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

al-le-go-ry /'æljə'gəri||-gɔːri/ *n* [C;U] (the style of) a story, poem, painting, etc., in which the characters and actions represent general truths, good and bad qualities, etc. —**gorical** /,æljə'gɔːrɪkəl||-'gɔː-, -'gɔː-/ *adj* —**gorically** /kli/ *adv*

al-leg-ro /ə'legrəʊ, ə'leɪ-/ *n, adv, adj* -**gros** (a piece of music) played fast and with plenty of life

al-le-lu-ia /,æljə'luzjə/ *n, interj* HALLELUJA

all-em-brac-ing /,ɔː.ə.ʔ/ *adj* including everything or everyone: *Her speech was all-embracing—it covered every section of the community and every one of their concerns.*

Al-len /'ælən/, **Woody** (1935–) an American COMIC actor and maker of humorous films, whose films include *Annie Hall*, *Manhattan*, and *Hannah and her Sisters* —see colour picture on page 553

Allende /aɪ'endi, -deɪ||aɪ'jen-/ , **Sal-va-dor** /'sælvədɔːr/ (1908–73) a Chilean COMMUNIST politician who was elected president of his country in 1970. He was killed when the army; supported by the CIA, attacked his palace and brought down his government.

All-En-gland Club /,ɔː.ə.ʔ/ [the] the All-England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club in Wimbledon, London, where the famous Wimbledon grass court tennis competition is played every year

Al-len screw /'ælən skruː/ *n* a screw with a six-sided hole in the top. An Allen screw is turned with an **Allen wrench**, which is an L-shaped bar of metal with six sides.

al-ler-gic /ə'li:dʒɪk||-zɪr-/ *adj* [(to)] suffering from an allergy: *She is allergic to the fur of cats.* | *an allergic reaction to cats* | (fig.) *He seems to be allergic to hard work.* (=he strongly dislikes it)

al-ler-gy /'ælədʒi||-ər-/ *n* [(to)] a condition of being unusually sensitive to something eaten, breathed in, or touched, in a way that causes pain or suffering: *an allergy to household dust/to penicillin*

al-le-vi-ate /ə'li:vɪet/ *v* [T] to reduce (pain, suffering, difficulties, etc.), esp. for a short time; RELIEVE —**-ation** /ə,li:vɪ'eɪʃən/ *n* [U]

al-ley /'æli/ *n* **1** a narrow street or path between buildings in a town —see also BLIND ALLEY **2** a narrow street allowing entry to garages or BACKYARDS **3** a path in a garden or park, esp. one bordered by trees or bushes **4** a long track along which balls are rolled in order to knock over bottle-shaped objects in BOWLING or SKITTLES **5 right up one's alley** AmE in one's area of interest or activity: *That job sounds like it's right up your alley.*

al-ley-way /'æliwei/ *n* an ALLEY (1)

All Fools' Day /,ɔː.ə.ʔ/ *n* [S] another name for APRIL FOOLS' DAY, April 1st

all fours /,ɔː.ə.ʔ/ *n* on all fours with the hands and knees on the floor: *He was crawling around on all fours looking for his contact lens.*

All Hal-lows' Day /,ɔː.ə.ʔ/ also **All-hal-lows** /ɔːl'hæləʊz/ —**All-hal-low-mas** /ɔːl'hæləʊməs/ *n* [S] old use another name for ALL SAINTS' DAY, November 1st

al-li-ance /ə'laɪəns/ *n* **1** [C (with, between)] a close agreement or connection made between countries, groups, families, etc. for a shared purpose or for the protection of their interests: *The two countries entered into a defensive alliance (with each other).* | *an alliance of moderate political groupings to oppose the government* —see also UNHOLY ALLIANCE **2** [C+sing./pl. v] a group or association formed in this way; combination of allies (ALLY): *The SDP-Liberal Alliance is holding a conference.* **3** [U (with)] the act of forming an alliance or the state of being in an alliance: *The steel union, in alliance with the railway workers, is planning a major strike.* **4** [C] becoming rare a union of families by marriage

Alliance [the] an association of the Liberal Party and the Social Democratic Party to fight the British elections together in 1983 and 1987.

Alliance & Leices-ter /,ɔː.ə.ʔ/ [the] a British BUILDING SOCIETY, branches of which are found in many towns and cities in Britain

al-lied /'ælaid, ə'laid/ *adj* [(to)] **1** joined by political agreement: *the allied forces* —see also ALLIES **2** related, esp. by shared qualities; similar: *a discussion of health and fitness and allied topics* **3** [F+with/to] connected; in addition: *The beautiful photography, allied with a very good script, makes it an excellent film.* —see also ALLY²

Al-lies /'ælaɪz/ *n* [the+P] **1** the countries, including Britain, France, Russia, and the US, who fought together during the First World War **2** the countries, including Britain, the USSR, and the US, who fought together during the Second World War **3** the United Nations countries who fought together against Iraq during the Gulf War

al-li-ga-tor /'æljə'geɪtə/ *n* -tors or -tor **1** [C] a large cold-blooded REPTILE that lives on land and in lakes and rivers in the hot wet parts of America and China —compare CROCODILE **2** [U] its skin turned into leather **3 see you later, alligator** a phrase used, esp. by and to children, to say goodbye. The reply to this is "in a while, CROCODILE".

all-in-clu-sive /,ɔː.ə.ʔ/ *adj* INCLUSIVE (1)

all-in wrest-ling /,ɔː.ə.ʔ/ *n* [U] a type of professional wrestling (WRESTLE) without limits on moves, holds, or methods

al-lit-er-a-tion /ə,li:tə'reɪʃən/ *n* [U] the appearance of the same sound or sounds at the beginning of two or more words that are next to or close to each other (as in "Round the rocks runs the river") —**-tive** /ə'li:tə'reɪv||-tə'reɪv/ *adj* —**-tively** *adv*

all-night-er /,ɔːl 'naɪtə/ *n* AmE a whole night spent studying or working: *Chip pulled an all-nighter* (=stayed up all night studying) *before his chemistry test.*

al-lo-cate /'æləkeɪt/ *v* [T (to)] **1** to set apart for a particular purpose; EARMARK: *The government has allocated over £100 million to the job creation programme.* | *That space has already been allocated for building a new hospital.* **2** to give as a share: *We've allocated accommodation to*

each of the refugees. [+obj(i)+obj(d)] *Each of the refugees has been allocated accommodation.*

al-lo-ca-tion /ˌæləˈkeɪʃən/ *n* **1** [U] the act of allocating **2** [C] a share or amount that has been allocated

al-lo-path-ic medi-cine /ˌæləpəθɪk ˈmedsən/ -ˈmedɪsən/ *n* [U] the science and practice of medicine that is standard in the west; WESTERN MEDICINE

al-lot /əˈlɒt/ -ˈlɒt/ *v* -tt- [T (to)] to give as a share or set apart for a purpose; allocate: *Most of the money has already been allotted.* [+obj(i)+obj(d)] *They allotted us three weeks to finish the job.* | *We were unable to finish it in the allotted time.*

al-lot-ment /əˈlɒtmənt/ -ˈlɒt-/ *n* **1** [C] a share, e.g. of money or space **2** [U] the giving of shares; allocation **3** [C] (in Britain) a small piece of land rented out, esp. by a town council, to people who will grow vegetables on it

all-out /ˌɔːl-ˈaʊt/ *adj* [A] total, complete, holding nothing back: *all-out war* | *an all-out assault on their opponents' goal*

al-low /əˈlaʊ/ *v* **1** [T] to let (someone) do something without opposing them or trying to prevent them; let (something) be done; permit: *They don't allow music after 10.30 at night.* [+v-ing] *Walking on the grass is not allowed.* [+obj+to-v] *His parents won't allow him to come.* | *He would like to come, but he's not allowed to.* | **Allow me to explain** (=I would like to explain) *that the government has no intention of raising taxes.* **2** [T+obj+adv/prep] to let come or go: *I don't allow dogs in the house.* | *They're not allowed out on Sundays.* **3** [T] to provide or give (esp. money or time), for a special purpose: *You'll have to allow three days for that job.* [+obj(i)+obj(d)] *My father allows me money for books.* | *We are only allowed a three-minute break.* **4** [I+of;T] to make possible (for): *The facts allow (of) no other explanation.* [+obj+to-v] *The extra money will allow us to buy a car.* | *A loophole in the law allowed them to escape prosecution.* **5** [T] to officially accept as correct, proper, etc.: *The referee refused to allow the goal.* | *Will the court allow her claim?* —opposite **dis-allow** **6** [T+that;obj] *fml* to admit: *We must allow that.* | *It must be allowed that he is a very clever politician.*

allow for sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] to take into consideration: *The cost of the project will be £2 million, which allows for inflation at 5%.* [+v-ing] *We must start early, to allow for finding their house.* [+obj+v-ing] *Allowing for the train being late, we should be back by 10.30.*

al-low-a-ble /əˈlaʊəbəl/ *adj* that may be allowed or permitted —bly *adv*

al-low-ance /əˈlaʊəns/ *n* **1** [C] a something, esp. money, provided regularly or for a special purpose: *The scholarship includes an allowance (of £100) for books.* | *a travelling allowance* **b** *AmE* for POCKET MONEY (1) **2** [C] a money taken off the cost of something, usu. for a special reason; reduction **b** an amount of money one is allowed to earn free of tax: *a married man's tax allowance* **3** [C;U] the taking into consideration of facts that may change something, esp. an opinion or judgment: *She failed one of the exam papers, but we ought to make allowance(s) for the fact that she was ill.*

al-loy¹ /ˈælɔɪ/ -ˈælɔɪ, ˈælɔɪ/ *n* [C;U] a metal that consists of two or more different metals mixed together: *Brass is an alloy of copper and zinc.*

al-loy² /əˈlɔɪ/ -ˈlɔɪ, ˈælɔɪ/ *v* [T] **1** *lit* to lower in value or quality; spoil —see also UNALLOYED **2** [(with)] *tech* to mix (one metal) with another

all-par-ty /ˌɔːl-ˈpɑːr-ti/ *adj* involving Members of Parliament from different political parties: *An all-party committee of MPs has been set up to report on recent changes in the NHS.*

all-points bul-le-tin /ˌɔːl-ˈpɔɪnts-ˈbʊl-ɪ-tɪn/ *n* *AmE* a police message, e.g. about a person wanted for questioning, broadcast to all police stations in an area

all-pow-er-ful /ˌɔːl-ˈpaʊ-ər-ful/ *adj* having the power to do anything; OMNIPOTENT

all-pur-pose /ˌɔːl-ˈpʊr-pəʊz/ *adj* [A] able to be used in all conditions or for all purposes: *an all-purpose cleaning liquid*

all right /ˌɔːl-ˈraɪt/ *adj, adv* [F no comp.] **1** safe, unharmed, or healthy: *The driver was rather shaken after the accident, but otherwise all right.* **2** *infml* satisfactory but not very good; acceptable; in a satisfactory or acceptable manner or state: *His work is all right (but he could be faster).* | *We're doing all right.* **3** allowable; acceptable: *Is it all right if I go now?* **4** also **right**— (in answer to a sug-

gestion, plan, etc.) *I/we agree; yes: "Come tomorrow." "All right! What time?"* **5** *infml* beyond doubt; certainly: *He's ill all right: he's got pneumonia.* —see ALRIGHT (USAGE) **6** **That's/It's all right** (used as a reply when someone thanks you or says they are sorry for something they have done): *"Sorry I'm late." "That's all right."*

▷ USAGE **1** In a talk or lecture, **all right** can be used to show that the speaker is introducing a new topic or activity: *All right, now let's move on to the next point.* | *All right, now if you'll come over here, I'll show you how this machine works.* **2** In informal spoken English (**all**) **right** is often used to check that the listener has understood: *We switch it on and then press this button. (All) right?* ◁

all round /ˌɔːl-ˈraʊnd/ *adv infml* in regard to everything; in every way: *Taken all round (=when everything is considered) it's not a bad car.*

all-round /ˌɔːl-ˈraʊnd/ also **all-around** *AmE*— *adj* [A] having ability in many things, esp. in various sports: *an all-round athlete*

all-round-er /ˌɔːl-ˈraʊnd-ər/ *n* **1** a person who has ability in many things: *He's a good all-rounder who likes sports, books, and music.* **2** (in cricket) a player who can both BAT and BOWL to a relatively high standard

All Saints' Day /ˌɔːl-ˈseɪnts-ˈdeɪ/ *n* [S] November 1st, when Christian churches remember all the SAINTS

all-seat-er /ˌɔːl-ˈsiːt-ər/ *adj* [A] *BrE* (of a place where sports are played) having only seats and no places where people are allowed to stand, considered to be safer than places where people are allowed to stand: *an all-seater football stadium*

all-sing-ing all-danc-ing /ˌɔːl-ˈsɪŋ-ɪŋ ˌɔːl-ˈdɑːns-ɪŋ/ *adj* [A] *infml, BrE* using every possible means to attract attention

all-sorts /ˌɔːl-ˈsɔːrts/ -ˈsɔːrts/ *n* [P] sweets made from LIQUORICE in several different shapes: *liquorice allsorts*

All Souls' Day /ˌɔːl-ˈsəʊls-ˈdeɪ/ *n* [S] November 2nd, when people in Christian churches pray for the souls of those who have died

all-spice /ˌɔːl-ˈspaɪs/ *n* [U] a powder made from the berries of a tropical American tree, used for giving a special taste to food

all-star /ˌɔːl-ˈstɑːr/ *adj* [A] including many famous actors: *a film with an all-star cast*

All-Star Game /ˌɔːl-ˈstɑːr-ˈɡeɪm/ *n* (in the US) a BASEBALL game played mid-season in which the teams are made up of the best players in professional baseball

All's Well that Ends Well /ˌɔːl-ˈs-ˌwɛl-ˈtæt-ˌɛndz-ˌwɛl/ the title of a humorous play by William Shakespeare about the love and marriage of two characters, Helena and Bertram

all-ter-rain bi-cy-cle /ˌɔːl-ˈtɛr-ɪn-ˈbaɪ-ˌsaɪ-ˌkəl/ *n* [C] a MOUNTAIN BIKE

all-ter-rain ve-hi-cle /ˌɔːl-ˈtɛr-ɪn-ˈveɪ-ˌkəl/ *n* [C] *esp. AmE* a motor vehicle with three or four wheels for use on rough ground, popular with young people —see OFF-ROAD VEHICLE

All Things Bright and Beau-ti-ful /ˌɔːl-ˈθɪŋz-ˌbraɪt-ənd-ˌboʊ-ti-ˈfʊl/ the title and first line of a religious song (HYMN), often sung by children:

*All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small.
All things wise and wonderful,
The Lord God made them all.*

all-time /ˌɔːl-ˈtaɪm/ *adj* [A] being the greatest, biggest, most, etc., ever known: *an all-time record* | *The shop's sales have reached an all-time high this year.*

al-lude /əˈluːd/ *v*

allude to sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] *fml* to speak about (someone or something), but in an indirect way: *She didn't mention Mr Smith by name, but it was clear she was alluding to him.*

al-lure¹ /əˈljʊə/ -ˈljʊər/ *v* [T] to attract or charm by the offer of something pleasant; TEMPT: *The job offers alluring opportunities.*

allure² *n* [S;U] (an) attraction; charm: *the allure of fame/foreign travel*

al-lure-ment /əˈljʊəmənt/ -ˈljʊər-/ *n* something that attracts, charms, or TEMPTS

al-lu-sion /əˈluːʒən/ *n* [C;U (to)] *fml* (an example of) the act of alluding or speaking about something indirectly, esp. while speaking about something else: *She made several allusions to the previous government's failures.* —sive

/ə'luːsɪv/ *adj*: an allusive style of poetry which is hard to understand —**sively** *adv*

al-lu-vi-al /ə'luːviəl/ *adj* being, concerning, or made of soil put down by rivers, lakes, floods, etc.: an alluvial plain

al-lu-vi-um /ə'luːviəm/ *n* -viums or -via /viə/ [C;U] *tech* soil put down by rivers, lakes, floods, etc.

al-ly¹ /'ælai/ || 'ælai, ə'lai/ *n* **1** a country that is joined to another by political agreement, esp. one that will provide support in war; member of an ALLIANCE: a meeting of the European allies —see also ALLIES **2** a person who regularly provides help or support; ASSOCIATE: one of the Prime Minister's closest allies

al-ly² /ə'lai/ || ə'lai, 'ælai/ *v* [I;T (with, to)] to join or unite, e.g. by political agreement or marriage: The small country allied itself with/to the stronger power. —see also ALLIED

Al-ly Pal-ly /,æli 'pæli/ *an informal name for* ALEXANDRA PALACE

al-ma-ma-ter /,ælmə 'meɪtə, -'mɑː- || -'mɑː-/ *n* [usu. sing.] *fml* **1** the school, college, or university which one attended **2** AmE (usu. caps) the song of a school, college, or university

al-ma-nac /'ɔːlmənæk/ || 'ɔːl-, 'æl-/ *n* a book giving a list of the days of a year, together with information, often in the form of tables, about the times of sunrise and sunset, changes in the moon, rise and fall of the sea, etc.

al-might-y /ɔːl'maɪti/ *adj* **1** (often cap.) able to do everything; OMNIPOTENT: Almighty God | God Almighty **2** [A] *infml* very big, strong, great, etc.: I heard an almighty crash.

al-mond /'ɑːmænd/ || 'ɑː-, 'æ-, 'æl-/ *n* **1** a fruit tree whose seeds are eaten as nuts **2** the nut of this tree —see picture at NUT

al-mo-ner /'ɑːmənə, 'æl- || 'æl-, 'ɑː-/ *n* becoming rare an official in a British hospital who looks after the material and social needs of the sick (now officially called a medical social worker)

al-most /'ɔːlməʊst/ || 'ɔːlməʊst, ɔːl'məʊst/ *adv* very nearly but not quite: I almost dropped the plate. | She said almost nothing. | It's almost certain to succeed. | It will almost certainly succeed. | almost everyone | an almost perfect performance | "Have you finished?" "Almost."

▷ USAGE Compare **almost** and **nearly**, which have similar meanings. **1** You can use either **almost** or **nearly** before *all*, *every*, and *always*, and before negative verbs: They almost/nearly always have coffee for breakfast. | Almost/nearly all the guests are here. | I almost/nearly didn't wake up on time. **2** You can say *very/pretty/not* before **nearly**: We pretty nearly missed the train. | I've not nearly finished, but you cannot use these words before **almost**. **3** You can use **almost** before *any* and before negative words such as *no*, *none*, *never*, *nobody*, *nothing*: Almost any bus will do. | I almost never see her, but you cannot use **nearly** in this way. —see also PRACTICALLY (USAGE)◀

alms /ɑːmz/ || ɑːmz, ɑːlmz/ *n* [P] old use money, food, clothes, etc., given to poor people

alms-house /'ɑː. / *n* a house, usu. one of a group, provided in former times by a rich person, in which old or poor people could live without paying rent

a-loft /ə'lɒft/ || ə'lɔːft/ *adv fml* high up, esp. in the air or among the sails of a ship: The flag was flying aloft.

a-lo-ha /ə'ləʊhə/ || -hɑː/ *interj., n* AmE used as a greeting or to say goodbye, esp. in Hawaii

a-lone /ə'ləʊn/ *adj, adv* **1** [F] without or separated from others: She lives alone. | The house stands alone on the hill. | I was (all) alone in the house. | I'm sure I'm not alone in thinking (=not the only person who thinks) that this is a mistake. **2** [after *n*] only: You alone can do it. (=You are the only person who can do it.) | The grant was awarded on merit alone. | Time alone will show who was right. | The price alone should have made you realize it was a trick. (=without even considering other facts) | She, alone of all the applicants (=she was the only one), had the qualifications we were looking for. **3** **leave/let someone or something alone**: a to allow one to be by oneself b to allow someone or something to remain untouched or unchanged: Leave that alone: it's mine. —see also **go it alone** (GO¹), **let alone** (LET¹) **4** **I want to be alone** a phrase which is believed to have been used by Greta Garbo, now often used humorously

▷ USAGE Being **alone** is neither good nor bad: She lives on tea and cake when she's alone. **Solitary** and **lone**, when used of things, mean that there is only one: a solitary/lone tree in the garden, but used of people they may show sadness, like **lonely** or **lonesome** (esp. AmE): Come over and see me; I'm feeling a bit solitary/lonely/lonesome. **Forlorn** suggests great sadness because of being left alone, and **desolate** is even stronger: The death of his wife left him completely forlorn/desolate.◀

a-long¹ /ə'lɒŋ/ || ə'lɔːŋ/ *prep* **1** from one end of to the other; in a line in the direction of the length of: We walked along the road. **2** in a line next to the length of: Trees grew along the river bank. **3** at a point on the length of: His room is along this passage.

along² *adv* **1** forward; on: She cycled along, singing happily. **2** with others or oneself: When we went to Paris we took my sister along (with us). **3** to that place or this place: I'll be along soon. | There's a meeting at the Town Hall and I'm thinking of going along. | She was just about to go home when along he came. | Along came her boyfriend, full of apologies. (note word order) **4** **along with** together with: There was a bill along with the parcel. —see also **all along** (ALL²)

a-long-side /ə,lɒŋ'saɪd/ || ə,lɔːŋ-/ *adv, prep* close to and in line with the edge of (something); along the side (of): We brought our boat alongside (their boat). | (fig.) videos, recordings, and other learning aids to be used alongside (=together with or at the same time as) the books

a-loof¹ /ə'lʊf/ *adv* [(from)] apart; distant, esp. in feeling or interest: He remained aloof from the other students.

aloof² *adj* not very open or friendly in one's relations with other people; RESERVED: I find her rather aloof/rather an aloof character. —~ly *adv* —~ness *n* [U (from)]

a-loud /ə'laʊd/ *adv* **1** in a usual speaking voice; not silently: The teacher asked me to read the poem aloud. | Party members are wondering aloud (=openly asking) whether he will resign. **2** in a loud voice; so as to be heard at a distance: The pain made him cry aloud.

al-pac-a /æl'pækə/ *n* **1** [C] a sheeplike animal of Peru, related to the LLAMA **2** [U] cloth made from the wool of the alpaca

Al-pen /'ælpən/ *n* [U] *tdmk* a breakfast food made with grains, fruit, and nuts, and eaten with milk, and considered to be a healthy food

al-pha /'ælfə/ *n* the first letter (A, α) of the Greek alphabet, sometimes used as a mark for excellent work by a student

alpha and o-me-ga /, . . . ' . . . ||, . . . ' . . . / *n* [the+S (of)] *lit* **1** the beginning and the end **2** the most necessary or important part

al-pha-bet /'ælfəbet/ *n* the set of letters used in writing any language, esp. when arranged in order: the Greek/Russian alphabet

al-pha-bet-i-cal /,ælfə'betɪkəl/ || also **al-pha-bet-ic** /,ælfə'betɪk/ *rare—adj* of, belonging to, or in the order of the alphabet: In a dictionary the words are arranged in alphabetical order. —~ly /kli/ *adv*

alphabet soup /' . . . , / *n* [U] *infml* speech or writing that is full of ABBREVIATIONS and ACRONYMS: Education is all alphabet soup these days.

al-pha-nu-mer-ic /,ælfənjuː'merɪk/ || -nuz-/ *adj tech* using or consisting of both letters and numbers: an alphanumeric character set/code

al-pine /'ælpain/ *adj* **1** of the Alps or other high mountains **2** (of plants) growing on parts of mountains that are too high for trees to grow on

Alps /ælpz/ *n* [the+P] a mountain range in Europe, popular with tourists, esp. for skiing (SKI)

al-read-y /ɔːl'redi/ *adv* **1** by or before now or a particular time: It's too late to give him any advice — he's already made up his mind. | By the time we got there, it was already getting dark. | He had already gone (when I arrived). | The new restaurant is unlikely to do well; there are too many restaurants here already. **2** even before the time expected: Are you leaving already? | She's here already; she must have come on the early train. **3** on another occasion in the past; before: I'm not going to watch that programme; I've seen it already.

▷ USAGE **1** Compare **already** and **yet**. **Yet** is used in

negative forms: *I haven't finished yet* and also in most question forms: *Have you finished yet?* But compare *Have you had lunch yet?* (asking for information) and *Have you had your lunch already?* (expressing surprise) 2 Compare **already** and **all ready**. *We're all ready* means that all of us are ready. —see also **JUST** (USAGE), **STILL** (USAGE) <

al-right /ˌɔːlˈraɪt/ *adj, adv* [F *no comp.*] **ALL RIGHT**

▷ **USAGE** **Alright** is very common now, but some people think **all right** is better English. —see also **ALL RIGHT** (USAGE) <

Al-sa-tian /ælˈseɪʃən/ *esp. BrE* || **German shepherd** *esp. AmE*— *n* a large dog, rather like a **WOLF**, often used by police or to guard property —see picture at **DOG**

al-so /ˈɔːlsəʊ/ *adv* as well; besides; too: *You'll have to get a passport, and you'll also need a visa.* | *The weather was not only cold, but also wet.* (=both cold and wet)

▷ **USAGE** 1 **Also**, **as well**, and **too** have similar meanings, but **as well** and **too** are more common than **also** at the end of a clause: *You'll need a new suitcase as well.* | *I must buy one too.* **Also** is slightly more formal: *She can sing and also dance.* | *She can sing, and dance too/as well* (less formal). 2 In negative expressions **neither** or **not ... either** is used: “*Does she eat meat?*” “*No, and she doesn't eat fish either/No, and neither does he/he doesn't either.*” <

also-ran /ˈɔːlə- / *n* 1 a horse that ran in a race but was not one of the first three at the end 2 a person who has failed to win or do well, e.g. in a competition or election

al-tar /ˈɔːltɑː/ *n* a table or raised level surface used in a religious ceremony, for example in the Christian service of Communion. The word is often used in connection with weddings. For example, if a woman talks about getting a man to the altar, she means marrying him in a church. —see picture at **CHURCH**

altar boy /ˈɔːlə- / *n* a boy who helps a Catholic priest during the church service

al-tar-piece /ˈɔːltəpiːs/ *n* a painting or other work of art placed above and behind an altar

al-ter /ˈɔːltə/ *v* 1 [I;T] to make or become different, but without changing into something else: *This shirt will have to be altered; it's too large.* | *The village hasn't really altered much since the last time I was there.* 2 [T] *esp. AmE euph* for **CASTRATE** (an animal)

al-ter-a-tion /ˌɔːltəˈreɪʃən/ *n* 1 [U (of)] the act of making or becoming different: *My coat needs alteration.* 2 [C (to)] a change, esp. a slight one; something changed: *There have been a few alterations to the timetable.*

al-ter-ca-tion /ˌɔːltəˈkeɪʃən/ *n* [C;U] *fml* (a) noisy argument or quarrel

al-ter e-go /ˌæltər ˈiːgəʊ, ˌɔːl-/ *n* **alter egos** *Lat* 1 a very close and trusted friend 2 a side of one's character which is different from one's usual character

al-ter-nate /ˌɔːlˈtɜːnənt/ *adj* 1 (of two things) happening by turns; first one and then the other: *a week of alternate rain and sunshine* 2 one of every two; every second: *He works on alternate days.* 3 [A] *esp. AmE* instead of another; alternative: *an alternate plan/suggestion* — *~ly adv*: *The play is alternately sombre and comical.*

al-ter-nate² /ˌɔːltəneɪt/ *v* [I (with, between);T] to (cause to) follow by turns: *We alternated periods of work and sleep.* | *Work alternated with sleep.* | *His moods alternated between happiness and gloom.* | *She treated him with alternating affection and contempt.* — **nation** /ˌɔːltəˈneɪʃən/ *n* [C;U]

al-ter-nat-ing cur-rent /ˌɔːltənətɪŋ ˈkʌrənt/ *n* [U] a flow of electricity that regularly changes direction at a very fast rate — compare **DIRECT CURRENT**

al-ter-na-tive¹ /ˌɔːlˈtɜːnətɪv/ *adj* [A *no comp.*] 1 (of two or more things) that may be used, had, done, etc., instead of another; other: *We returned by the alternative road.* | *several alternative possibilities* 2 different from what is usual or **TRADITIONAL**: *alternative sources of energy, such as wave power and wind power* 3 (esp. of modern young people and what they do) not based on or not accepting the established standards of ordinary society: *the alternative press* | *alternative theatre* — *~ly adv*: *You're welcome to come with us now in our car. Alternatively you could go later with Mary.*

alternative² *n* [(to)] 1 a chance to choose or decide between two or more possible things, courses of action, etc.: *I'm afraid I have no alternative but to report you to the police.* 2 something, esp. a course of action, that may be taken or chosen instead of one or more others: *The only alternative to being taken prisoner was to die fighting.* | *We had to fight: there was no (other) alternative.* | *There are several alternatives to your plan.* 3 **there is no alternative** a phrase used by Margaret Thatcher to defend her economic policies (**POLICY**), now often used humorously

▷ **USAGE** Sentences such as *We have several alternatives to choose from* are very common, but are often thought to be incorrect because there should be only two **alternatives**. <

alternative com-e-dy /ˌɔːltəˈnɛɪtɪv ˈkɒmɪdi/ *n* [U] a funny play, film, or other work which is different and modern in its attitudes, subject matter, etc., esp. by being non-RACIST, non-SEXIST, etc.

alternative medi-cine /ˌɔːltəˈnɛɪtɪv ˈmiːdɪn/ *n* [U] any method of preventing or treating illness other than that usu. used in Western countries. Alternative medicine includes **ACUPUNCTURE**, **CHINESE MEDICINE**, **HERBAL MEDICINE**, **HOMEOPATHY**, and **osteopathy** (**OSTEOPATH**). In Britain and the US these are not usu. covered by the **NHS** or **health insurance**, so people who want to use them usu. have to pay for them. —see also **COMPLEMENTARY MEDICINE**

al-ter-na-tor /ˌɔːltənɛɪtəˈtɔː/ *n* an electric **GENERATOR** for producing **ALTERNATING CURRENT** —see picture at **ENGINE**

al-though /ɔːlˈðəʊ/ *conj* 1 in spite of the fact that; **THOUGH**: *They are generous although they are poor.* | *Although my car is very old, it still runs very well.* 2 but; **HOWEVER**: *The price increase will obviously be unpopular, although it's unlikely to reduce demand.*

al-ti-me-ter /ˈæltɪˌmɪtəː/ *n* an instrument used, esp. in an aircraft, for recording height

al-ti-tude /ˈæltɪˌtjuːd/ *n* 1 [*usu. sing.*] the height of an object or place above sea level: *The plane flew at an altitude of 30,000 feet.* | *What is the altitude of the top of the mountain?* —compare **ELEVATION** (2) 2 also **altitudes pl.** — a high area: *At high altitudes it is difficult to breathe.*

Alt-man /ˈɔːltmən/ , **Rob-ert** /ˈrɒbət/ ˈrɑːbərt/ (1925–) an American film director whose works include *Nashville*, *A Wedding*, and *Three Women*

al-to /ˈæltəʊ/ *n* -**tos** 1 also **countertenor**— (a man with) a very high male singing voice, higher than **TENOR** 2 also **contralto**— (a woman with) a low female singing voice, lower than **SOPRANO** 3 a musical instrument with the same range of notes as these — **alto adj, adv**: *an alto saxophone/to sing alto*

al-to-geth-er¹ /ˌɔːltəˈɡeðə/ *adv* 1 completely; thoroughly: *That's an altogether different matter/That's a different matter altogether.* | *We weren't altogether surprised when he arrived late.* 2 considering all things; on the whole: *It rained a lot, but altogether it was a good trip.* —see **ABSOLUTELY** (USAGE)

al-to-geth-er² /ˌɔːltəˈɡeðə/ *n* in the altogether humor without clothes; **NUDE**

Al-ton Tow-ers /ˌɔːltən ˈtaʊəz/ *n* a large pleasure park in Staffordshire in England, where families go to enjoy the many rides and amusements

al-tru-is-m /ˈæltruːɪzəm/ *n* [U] consideration of the happiness and good of others before one's own; unselfishness —compare **EGOISM**

al-tru-ist /ˈæltruːɪst/ *n* a person who is habitually kind and helpful to others — *~ic* /ˈæltruːɪstɪk/ *adj* — *~ically* /kli/ *adv*

al-u-min-i-um /ˌæljʊˈmɪniəm/ *n* *BrE* || **a-lu-mi-num** /əˈluːmɪnəm/ *AmE*— *n* [U] a silver-white metal that is a simple substance (**ELEMENT**) light in weight, and easily shaped: *aluminium saucepans* | *aluminium foil*

aluminum foil /ˌæljʊˈmɪniəm ˈfɔɪl/ *n* [U] *AmE* for **TINFOIL**

a-lum-nus /əˈlʌmnəs/ **a-lum-na** /-nə/ *fem.* — **n-ni** /naɪ/, -**nae** /naɪ/ *fem.* — *esp. AmE* a former student of a school, college, or university

al-ve-o-lar /ˈælvɪələ/ *n, adj tech* (a consonant sound such as /t/ or /d/) made by putting the end of the tongue on the hard bony area at the top of the mouth just behind the upper front teeth

al-ways /'ɔ:lweɪz, -weɪz/ *adv* **1** at all times; at each time: *The sun always rises in the east. | We've always lived here. | I'm always pleased to see her. | They always go to Italy for their holidays. | The job is interesting, but not always easy.* **2** for ever: *I will love you always.* **3** (used with the progressive form of a verb) all the time and often in an annoying way; repeatedly: *He's always asking silly questions.* **4** (used esp. with **can** or **could**) as a possible course of action: *If you can't start the car you can always go by bus instead.* —compare **FOREVER** (2); see **NEVER** (USAGE)

Alz-heim-er's dis-ease /'æltʃaɪməz dɪˌzɪz/ || 'æltʃaɪmərz- also **presenile dementia**— *n* [U] an illness caused by the decay of the brain, which affects some older people, making them forget things and lose the ability to care for themselves

am /m, əm; strong æm/ *v* 1st person sing. present tense of **BE**: *I am (living) here now. | Here I am! | Am I the only person who's going?* —see **AREN'T** (USAGE)

AM /,eɪ 'em-/ *n* [U] amplitude modulation; a system of broadcasting in which the strength of the sound waves varies. Sometimes with this system, the sounds provided for the listener are not always very clear: *an AM radio* —compare **FM** and see **MEDIUM WAVE** (USAGE)

am, AM /,eɪ 'em/ *abbrev. for:* ante meridiem (= *Lat*) before midday (used after numbers expressing time): *the 8 am (train) from London* —see also **PM**

A.M.A. AMA /,eɪ em 'eɪ/ American Medical Association; the organization for doctors and **RESEARCHERS** in medicine

a-mal-gam /ə'mælgəm/ *n* **1** [C (of)] *fml* a mixture or combination of different things: *Her work is a strange amalgam of musical styles.* **2** [C;U] *tech* a mixture of metals, one of which is **MERCURY**, often used for filling holes in teeth

a-mal-gam-ate /ə'mælgəmeɪt/ *v* [I;T (with)] (of businesses, societies, groups, etc.) to join so as to form something larger; unite; combine —**ation** /ə,mælgə'meɪʃən/ *n* [C;U (with)]: *The new company was formed by the amalgamation of three smaller businesses.*

a-man-u-en-sis /ə,mænju'ensɪs/ *n* -ses /sɪz/ *pomp* a person employed to write down what someone else is saying or to copy what someone else has written

a-mass /ə'mæs/ *v* [T] to collect (money, goods, power, etc.) in great amounts, usu. over a long period; **ACCUMULATE**: *She amassed a fortune by speculating on the stock exchange. | to amass evidence/information* —see **GATHER** (USAGE)

am-a-teur /'æmətəʳ, -tʃuəʳ, -tʃəʳ, ,æmə'tɜːʳ/ *adj, n* **1** [no comp.] (of, by, or being) a person who paints pictures, performs plays, takes part in sports, etc., for enjoyment and without being paid for it: *Only amateurs can compete in the Olympic Games. | an amateur photographer/actor/detective | amateur football/psychology* —compare **DILETTANTE**, **PROFESSIONAL** ¹; see also **PRO-AM** **2** *derog* (typical of) a person without experience or skill in a particular art, sport, etc.: *We made a rather amateur job of painting the house.*

amateur dra-mat-ics /,... '.../ *n* [U] the performing of plays by people who are not paid for this and do it just for enjoyment. In Britain, most towns have an amateur drama group and because the standard is not always very high it is sometimes connected with bad, over-emotional acting and so often considered humorous: *When they screamed at each other angrily and he walked out of the meeting, it was like amateur dramatics.*

am-a-teur-ish /'æmətəʳɪʃ, ,æmə'tʃuəʳɪʃ, -'tɜːrɪʃ || ,æmə'tuəʳ-, -'tɜːr-/ *adj* *derog* lacking skill; typical of an **AMATEUR** (2) — **ly** *adv* — **ness** *n* [U]

am-a-to-ry /'æmətəʳi || -tɜːri/ *adj* *lit* or *poet* concerning or expressing sexual love: *amatory verses*

a-maze /ə'meɪz/ *v* [T] to fill with a feeling of great surprise or disbelief; cause wonder in; **ASTONISH**: *Your knowledge amazes me. | It amazed us to hear that you were leaving.* — **ment** *n* [U]: *To my amazement I came first. | We watched in amazement as she tore up the contract and threw it in the bin.*

a-mazed /ə'meɪzd/ *adj* [(at, by)] filled with great surprise or wonder: *I was amazed at/by his calmness. | We were amazed to hear the news/amazed (that) he could do it. | You would be amazed how difficult it was. | an amazed expression on her face*

a-maz-ing /ə'meɪzɪŋ/ *adj* *usu. apprec* causing great surprise or wonder, esp. because of quantity or quality; **EXTRA-ORDINARY**: *The new car goes at an amazing speed. | What an amazing film! | It's quite amazing that he should be so unaware of what's going on!* — **ly** *adv*: *an amazingly hot day | amazingly good/bad*

Amazing Grace /... '.../ the title and first words of a religious song (**HYMN**)

Am-a-zon /'æməzən || -zɑːn, -zən/ *n* [the] a river in South America; the second longest river in the world

amazon *n* (often *cap.*) a tall strong woman, esp. one who likes sports. In **CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY**, the Amazons were a nation of fierce, fighting women. — **ian** /,æmə 'zəʊniən-/ *adj*

am-bas-sa-dor /æm'bæsədəʳ/ *n* a **DIPLOMAT** of the highest rank who is the official representative of his/her country in another country: *Britain's ambassador to the Soviet Union | (fig.) Sportsmen who play abroad should remember that they are ambassadors of their country.* —compare **CONSUL** (1), **HIGH COMMISSIONER** — **ship** *n* [C;U] — **ial** /æm,bæsəd'ɔːriəl/ *adj*

am-bas-sa-dress /æm'bæsədʳɪs/ *n* **1** the wife of an ambassador **2** *pomp* a female representative or official messenger

am-ber /'æmbəʳ/ *n* [U] (the colour of) a yellowish brown hard clear substance used for jewels, decorative objects, etc.: *an amber necklace | The traffic lights changed from green to amber to red.* —**amber** *adj*

am-bi-dex-trous /,æmbɪ'dekstrəs-/ *adj* able to use either hand with equal skill — **ly** *adv*

am-bi-ence, ambience /'æmbiəns/ *n* the character, quality, feeling, etc., of a place; **ATMOSPHERE**: *This little restaurant has a pleasant ambience.*

am-bi-ent /'æmbiənt/ *adj* [A] often *tech* on all sides; completely surrounding: *The equipment will function in ambient temperatures of up to 40°C.*

am-big-u-ous /æm'bigjuəs/ *adj* having more than one possible meaning or **INTERPRETATION**; unclear: *an ambiguous reply/attitude* —opposite **unambiguous**; compare **AMBIVALENT** — **ly** *adv* —**guity** /,æmbɪ'gjuːtɪ/ *n* [C;U]: *You should avoid ambiguity in your writing. | His reply was full of ambiguities.*

am-bit /'æmbɪt/ *n* [usu. sing.] *fml* range or limit of power or influence

am-bi-tion /æm'bɪʃən/ *n* **1** [U] strong desire, esp. over a long period, for success, power, wealth, etc.: *She's clever but she lacks ambition. | political ambition | his single-minded ambition* **2** [C] something that is desired in this way: *A big house in the country is my ambition. | One of her ambitions is to become a doctor. | He has at last achieved his lifetime ambition of launching a newspaper.*

am-bi-tious /æm'bɪʃəs/ *adj* **1** having a strong desire for success, power, wealth, etc.: *an ambitious woman/politician* **2** showing or resulting from a desire to do something difficult or something that demands great effort, great skill, etc.: *His next production was a very ambitious musical. | We cooked nothing more ambitious than boiled eggs.* — **ly** *adv* — **ness** *n* [U]

am-biv-a-lent /æm'bɪvələnt/ *adj* [(towards, about)] having opposing feelings towards, or opinions about, a person or thing: *an ambivalent attitude towards private enterprise* —compare **AMBIGUOUS** — **ly** *adv* —**lence** *n* [U]

am-ble /'æmbəl/ *v* [I (about, around)] **1** to walk at an easy unhurried rate **2** (of a horse) to move at an easy unhurried rate by lifting the two legs on one side and then the two on the other —compare **CANTER**, **GALLOP**, **TROT** —**amble** *n* [S]

Am-bridge /'æmbrɪdʒ/ an imaginary village in the English countryside which is the setting for the popular British radio programme *The Archers*

am-bro-si-a /æm'brəʊziə || -zə/ *n* [U] *lit* something with a delightful taste or smell (from **CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY**, where ambrosia was the food of the gods)

am-bu-lance /'æmbjʊləns/ *n* a motor vehicle for carrying sick or wounded people, esp. to a hospital: *They were taken by ambulance to the nearest hospital.*

ambulance chas-er /'... ,.../ *n* *AmE infml* a lawyer who tells people who have been in accidents that he or she will represent them if they want to **SUE** (=try to obtain money in court) the person who caused the accident

am-bu-lance-man /'æmbjʊlənsmən/ *n* -men /men/ *BrE* a man whose job is to drive an ambulance or to look after sick or wounded people during their journey to hospital in an ambulance

am-bu-lance-wom-an /'æmbjʊləns,wʊmən/ *n* -women /,wɪmɪn/ *BrE* a woman whose job is to drive an ambulance or to look after sick or wounded people during their journey to hospital in an ambulance

am-bush /'æmbʊʃ/ *v* [T] to attack from a place where one has hidden and waited

ambush ² *n* 1 [C] a surprise attack from a place of hiding 2 [C;U] the place where the attackers hide: *waiting in ambush*

a-me-ba /ə'mi:zə/ *n* *AmE* for AMOEBA —**bic** *adj*

a-me-li-o-rate /ə'mi:liəreɪt/ *v* [I;T] *fml* or *pomp* to make or become better or less bad; improve: *Hiring an extra teacher will ameliorate the situation, but we still need more books and desks.* —**ration** /ə'mi:liə'reɪʃən/ *n* [U]

a-men /ɑ:'men, eɪ-/ *interj* (used at the end of a prayer or HYMN) may this be true

a-me-na-ble /ə'mi:nəbəl/ *adj* 1 [(to)] ready to be guided or influenced (by): *I'm sure she'll be amenable to any sensible suggestions.* | *He's very amenable.* 2 [F+to] *fml* able to be tested by: *My scientific discoveries are amenable to the usual tests.*

a-mend /ə'mend/ *v* 1 [T] to make changes in the words of (a rule or law): *to amend the constitution* —compare EMEND 2 [I;T] *fml* to make or become better by getting rid of faults; improve; RECTIFY

a-mend-ment /ə'mendmənt/ *n* [C (to);U] 1 (the act of making) a change to improve a rule, law, statement, etc.: *Your plan needs some amendment.* | *So many amendments were made to the law that its original meaning was completely changed.* | *The opposition parties moved (=suggested) an amendment to the bill.* | *to debate/pass an amendment* 2 (often *cap.*) one of the list of rights included in the US Constitution —see also FIRST AMENDMENT

a-mends /ə'mendz/ *n* **make amends (for)** to pay for or show one is sorry for some harm, unkindness, damage, etc.; make REPARATION: *I'm sorry I forgot about your birthday. How can I make amends?*

a-me-ni-ty /ə'mi:nɪti/ *n* [often *pl.*] something in a town, hotel, or other place, that helps to make life pleasant and provide enjoyment: *Parks and swimming pools are just some of the town's local amenities.*

Am-er-a-sian /,æmə'reɪzən, -ʃən/ *n* a person whose father is American and whose mother is Asian; many Amerasians were born in Vietnam and Korea when Americans were fighting in wars there

A-mer-i-ca /ə'merɪkə/ *infml* the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
▷ USAGE People from different countries of North and South America sometimes protest when **America** is used to mean only the **United States**, but this meaning is commonly used and understood by English speakers all over the world.◁

A-mer-i-can /ə'merɪkən/ *n, adj* (a person) from N, Central, or S America, esp. the United States of America

A-mer-i-ca-na /ə'merɪ'kænə/ *n* [U] (something) of a style which is esp. American, often associated with country or old-fashioned taste. Some Americana would be described as TACKY: *The movie is filled with Americana: shots of motels, gas stations, waffle houses, and old Ford pick-ups.* | *a collection of Americana including stetson hats and civil war memorabilia.*

American A-cad-e-my of Dra-mat-ic Arts /,æmə'reɪkən, 'dramætɪk, 'ɑ:ts/ *n* an American school for actors where many famous actors have studied

American As-so-ci-a-tion of Re-tired Per-sons /,æmə'reɪkən, 'asosiə'teɪʃən/ *n* also **AARP**—a group which represents the interests of older people, esp. those who have stopped working, when dealing with Congress

American Band-stand /,æmə'reɪkən, 'bændstænd/ *n* an American television programme popular esp. during the 1950s and 1960s which showed popular music bands and singers and had people dancing to them in the place where it was filmed

American Bar As-so-ci-a-tion /,æmə'reɪkən, 'bɑ:soʊsiə'teɪʃən/ *n* also **ABA**—[the] a professional organization for lawyers in the US

American Can-cer So-ci-e-ty /,æmə'reɪkən, 'kænsər, 'soʊsiə'ti/ *n* also **ACS** (*ab-brev.*) an American organization that works to find the causes, treatment, and cures of cancer

American cheese /,æmə'reɪkən, 'tʃi:z/ *n* [U] *AmE* a yellowish-orange, mild processed (PROCESS² (1)) cheese, not strong in taste, often bought in thin pieces wrapped in plastic

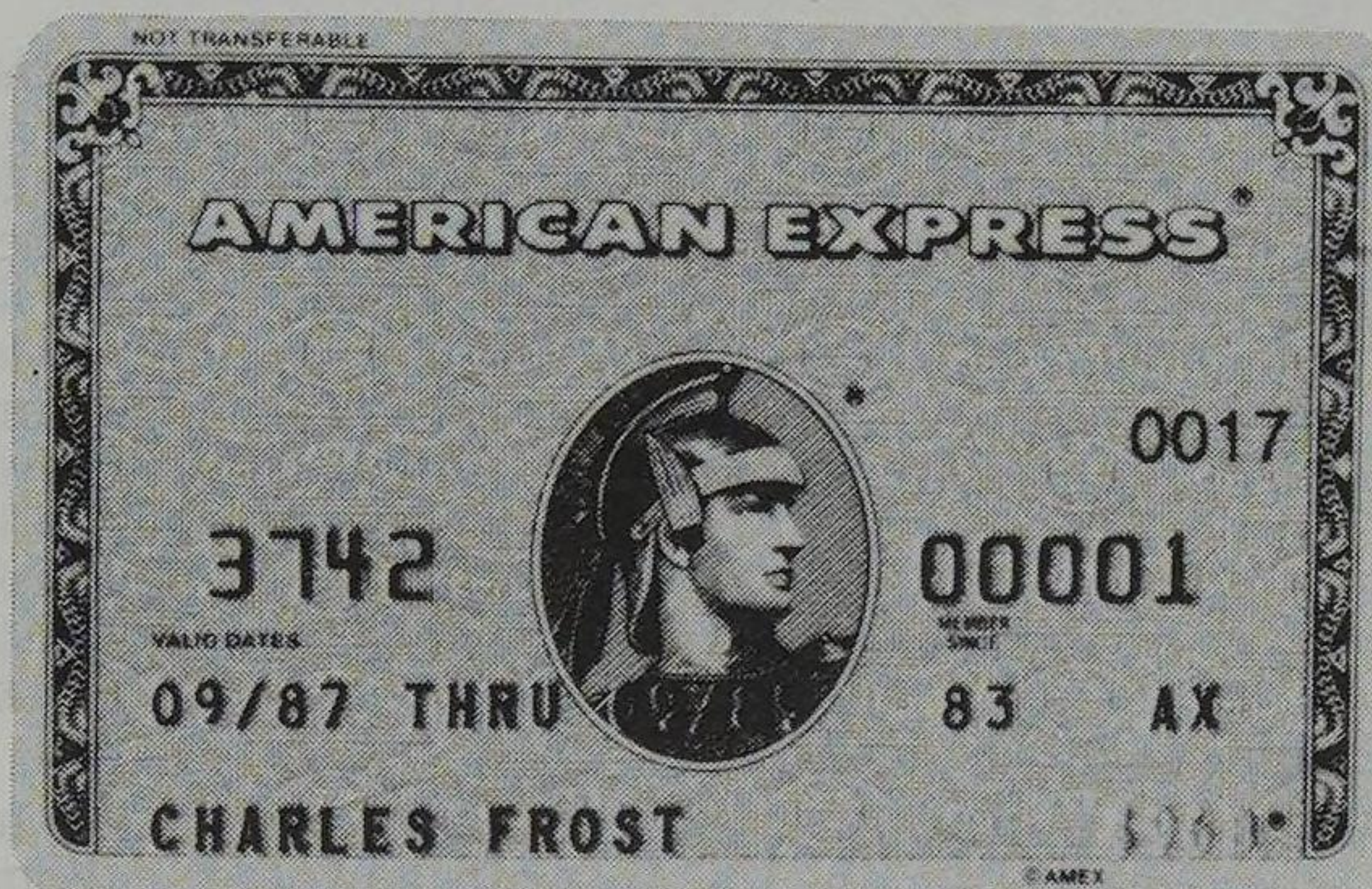
American Civ-il Lib-er-ties U-nion /,æmə'reɪkən, 'sɪvəl, 'li:bətɪz, 'ju:niən/ *n* [the] see ACLU

American Civ-il War /,æmə'reɪkən, 'sɪvəl, 'wɔ: / *n* [the] see CIVIL WAR

American Con-ser-va-to-ry Thea-tre /,æmə'reɪkən, 'kɒnsəvətɔ:ri, 'θi:ətə / *n* also **ACT** a REPERTORY theatre (=one that puts on different plays every few nights) and school for actors in San Francisco

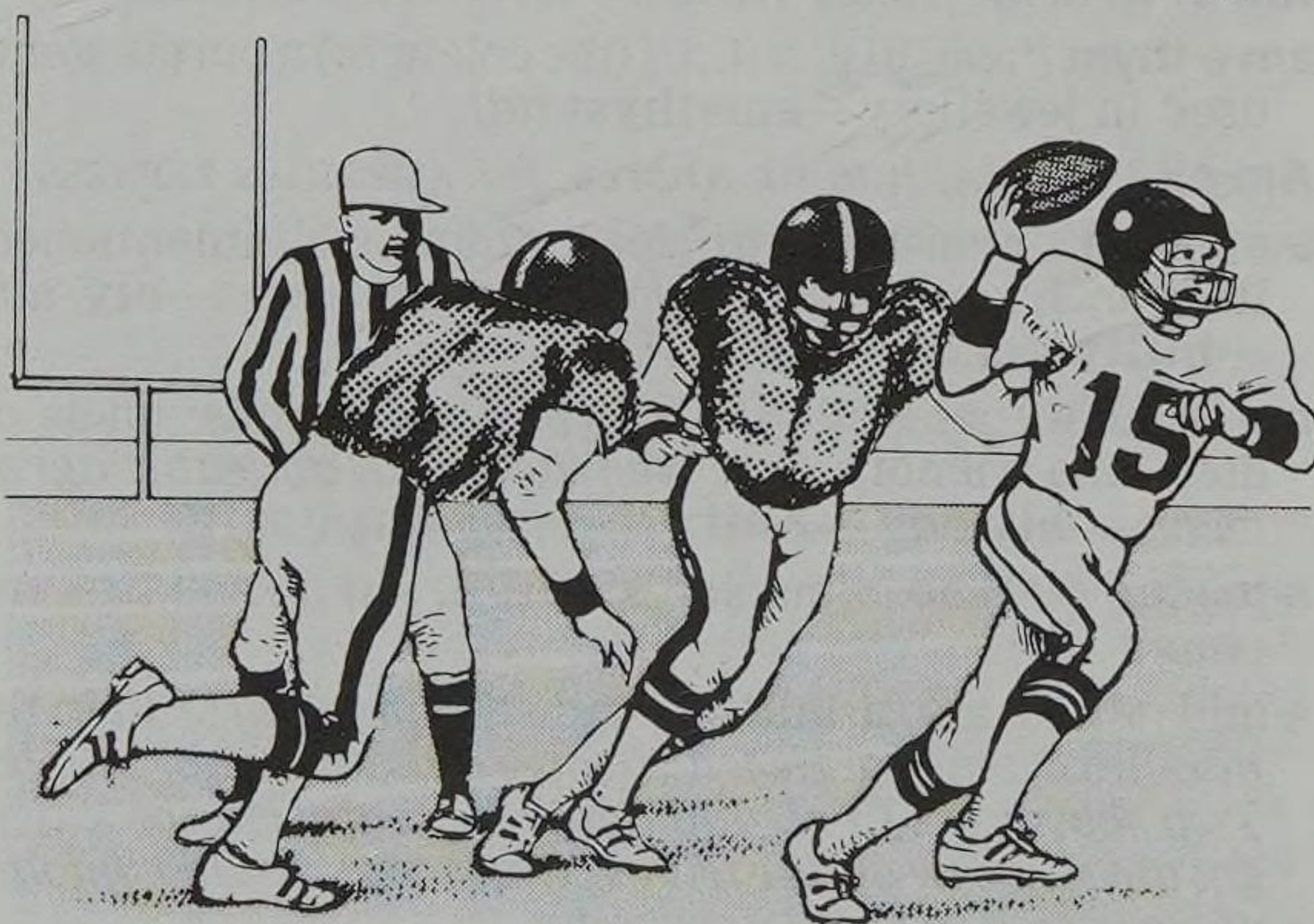
American Dream /,æmə'reɪkən, 'dri:m/ *n* [the] the idea that the US is a place where everyone has the chance of becoming rich and successful. Many IMMIGRANTS to the US in the early 20th century believed in the American Dream.

the symbol for American Express



American Ex-press /,æmə'reɪkən, 'ekspreɪs/ *tdmk* a CHARGE CARD company with offices in many cities around the world. Well-known SLOGANS for American Express are "Don't leave home without it" and "That'll do nicely".

American football



American foot-ball /,æmə'reɪkən, 'fʊtbɔ:l/ *n* [U] *BrE* for FOOTBALL (2)

American Goth-ic /,æmə'reɪkən, 'gɒθɪk/ *n* a painting by Grant Wood, showing a very serious looking farmer holding a PITCH-FORK, standing beside a young woman. It is often copied in a humorous way for advertising. —see colour picture on page 1016

American In-di-an /,æmə'reɪkən, 'ɪndiən/ *n* also **Amerindian** *n* NATIVE AMERICAN

A-mer-i-can-is-m /ə'merɪkənɪzəm/ *n* a word, phrase, speech sound, etc., of English as spoken in America, esp. in the US

a-mer-i-can-ize also **-ise** *BrE* /ə'merɪkənəɪz/ *v* [T] to make something, such as a spelling, a place, a way of working, etc., American in character —**ization** /ə'merɪkənəɪ'zeɪʃən/ *n* [U]

American League /,æmə'reɪkən, 'li:gu / *n* [U] a group of PROFESSIONAL US BASEBALL teams which play against each other —see also BASEBALL, NATIONAL LEAGUE, WORLD SERIES

American Le-gion /,æmə'reɪkən, 'li:ʒən/ *n* [the] an association of people who served in the American armed forces during the war

American Re-volution-a-ry War /ˌɑːm.ɪˈrɪ.ʃən.əl.ˈwɔː/ also **American Revolution** *AmE* || **American War of Independence** *esp. BrE [the]* (1775–83) the war in which the American colonies (COLONY) won their independence from Britain. Arguments which led to the war included Britain's **taxation** (of the colonies) **without representation** in Parliament, the presence and cost of a British army in the colonies, and Britain forbidding westward settlement beyond the Appalachian mountains. Anger on both sides resulted in the BOSTON MASSACRE and the BOSTON TEA PARTY. When fighting began in several areas near Boston in 1775, General George Washington led the American soldiers, and was later joined by help from France in 1777. In 1776, the colonies' **Continental Congress** rang the LIBERTY BELL to tell the people about the DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE. The war ended when the British surrendered in 1781; a peace agreement (TREATY) was signed in 1783. —see also CONSTITUTION, VALLEY FORGE, US

American Way /ˌɑːm.ɪˈrɪ.ʃən.əl.ˈweɪ/ [*the*] a set of beliefs or values that many Americans hold but which are not laws or written down in any form. Examples of types of beliefs which would be considered part of the American Way are: working hard, believing in yourself and your ability to change your situation for the better, and treating people fairly. Sometimes people use the phrase “the American Way” in a negative way to mean that they think Americans believe that they deserve to have material wealth such as bigger cars and houses and expensive things: *It isn't part of the American Way to trample over the rights of the individual.* | *It's the American Way, isn't it? Better things and more of them.*

America's Cup /ˌɑːm.ɪˈrɪ.ʃən.əl.ˈkʌp/ [*the*] a sailing competition in which teams from the US, Australia and other nations compete

America the Beau-ti-ful /ˌɑːm.ɪˈrɪ.ʃən.əl.ˈbiː.ə.tiː.ʃəl/ a PATRIOTIC song known to almost all Americans and taught to them as children. It begins:

*O Beautiful for spacious skies,
for amber waves of grain;
for purple mountain majesties
above the fruited plain...*

Am-er-in-di-an /ˌæm.əˈrɪndiən/ *n* NATIVE AMERICAN

am-e-thyst /ˌæm.əˈθɪst/ *n* [C;U] (the colour of) a purple stone, used in jewellery —**amethyst** *adj*

Am-ex /ˌæm.eks/ *n* *tdmk abbrev. for* AMERICAN EXPRESS

a-mi-a-ble /ˌeɪm.i.ə.bəl/ *adj* pleasant and well-intentioned; likable; friendly: *an amiable young man* —**bly** *adv* —**bility** /ˌeɪm.i.əˈbɪl.ɪ.ti/ *n* [U]

am-i-ca-ble /ˌæm.ɪ.kə.bəl/ *adj* typical of friends; made or done in a friendly way: *We reached an amicable agreement.* —**bly** *adv* —**bility** /ˌæm.ɪ.kəˈbɪl.ɪ.ti/ *n* [U]

a-mi-cus cu-ri-ae /əˈmaɪkəs ˈkjuəri-iː, -aɪ/ *n* FRIEND OF THE COURT

a-mid /əˈmɪd/ also **a-midst** /əˈmɪdst/ — *prep fml or lit* in the middle of; among: *He felt strange amid so many people.* | *Two shots were fired, and amid the confusion the killers got away.* | *The dollar fell in value today, amid rumours of weakness in the US economy.*

a-mid-ships /əˈmɪdʃɪps/ *adv tech* in the middle part of the ship

a-mi-go /əˈmɪɡəʊ/ **amiga** /-gə/ *fem.* — *n* a friend

A-min Da-da /ɑːmɪn ˈdɑːdɑː/ , **Id-i** /ˈɪdi/ (1925–) the president of Uganda from 1971 to 1979. Many people suffered great cruelty and terror under his rule. In 1972, he forced 80,000 Asians to leave Uganda and many of these people came to live in Britain.

a-mi-no ac-id /əˈmɪnəʊ ˈæsɪd, əˈmaɪ-/ *n* any of several substances coming from and necessary to living matter. PROTEINS are chiefly built up from these substances.

a-mir /əˈmɪər/ *n* an EMIR

A-mis /ˈeɪmɪs/ , **Kingsley** (1922–) a British writer well known for his humorous NOVELS, such as *Lucky Jim* which is about a young university teacher

A-mish /ˈɑːmɪʃ/ *n* [*the*] a group of people who follow a branch of the Christian religion which has many rules about behaviour, e.g. they must wear a certain kind of clothing and must not use machinery. They live mainly in the American states of Pennsylvania and Ohio. The Amish have often gone to court to protect their religious

way of life. **Amish** *adj*: *an Amish town*

a-miss /əˈmɪs/ *adj, adv* [F *no comp.*] *fml* 1 wrong(ly) or imperfect(ly): *Is there something amiss?* | *A few words of introduction may not come amiss.* (=would be very suitable) 2 **take something amiss** to be angry about something, esp. because of a misunderstanding

am-i-ty /ˈæm.ɪ.ti/ *n* [U] *fml* friendship: *They lived in amity with their neighbours.*

Am-man /əˈmɑːn/ the capital city of Jordan

am-me-ter /ˈæm.ɪ.tər, ˈæm.mɪ.tər/ *n* an instrument for measuring the strength of an electric current, in AMPS —see picture at METER

am-mo-ni-a /əˈməʊniə/ *n* [U] a strong gas with a sharp smell, used in explosives, in chemicals (FERTILIZERS) to help plants grow, etc.

am-mu-ni-tion /ˌæm.jʊˈnɪʃən/ also **am-mo** /ˈæm.əʊ/ *infml* — *n* [U] bullets, bombs, explosives, etc., esp. things fired from a weapon: *They were desperately short of ammunition.* | (fig.) *The recent tax increases have provided the government's opponents with plenty of ammunition.*

am-ne-si-a /æmˈniːziə/ -zə/ *n* [U] loss of memory, either in part or completely: *She suffered amnesia after the car crash.* | *alcoholic amnesia* —**ac** /zɪæk/ *adj, n*

am-nes-ty /ˈæm.nəsti/ *n* [C;U] (a) general act of forgiveness, esp. as allowed by a government to political criminals: *to declare an amnesty*

Amnesty In-ter-na-tion-al /ˌæm.nəsti ɪnˈtɜː.nə.ʃən.əl/

an independent organization established in 1961 to defend human rights and freedom of expression in all parts of the world. It is known esp. for fighting against TORTURE and for trying to persuade governments to set free people who are held prisoner because of their political beliefs.

Amnesty International



am-ni-o-cen-te-sis /ˌæm.ni.əʊ.sənˈtiːsɪs/ *n* [U] *med* a method of testing an unborn baby to find out if it has a condition such as DOWN'S SYNDROME by removing liquid from the mother's WOMB. The test is often given to PREGNANT women aged 35 or over.

Am-o-co /ˈæm.əkəʊ/ *tdmk* an American oil company

Am-o-co Ca-diz /ˌæm.əkəʊ kəˈdɪz/ [*the*] an OIL TANKER (=a very large ship carrying oil) which ran onto the sea bed off the coast of France in 1978, losing a great deal of oil in the **Amoco Cadiz disaster** —see also EXXON VALDEZ

a-moe-ba || also **ameba** *AmE* /əˈmɪz.bə/ *n* -**bas** or -**bae** /bɪz/ a very small living creature consisting of only one cell

a-moe-bic || also **amebic** *AmE* /əˈmɪz.bɪk/ *adj* of or caused by amoebas: *amoebic dysentery*

a-mok /əˈmɒk/ || əˈmɑːk/ also **amuck** — *adv run amok* to go or run out of control, esp. with a desire to kill people: *a mad axeman running amok* | (fig.) *If public spending runs amok our money will lose its value.*

a-mong /əˈmʌŋ/ also **a-mongst** /əˈmʌŋst/ — *prep* 1 in the middle of; surrounded by: *Their house is hidden among trees.* | *She was soon lost among the crowd.* 2 between or through the group of: *discontent among the unemployed* | *They talked about it among themselves.* (=together) 3 in the group of; being one of: *This mountain is among the highest in the world.* | *Among those who escaped was a man convicted for murder.* | *She's very keen on sport: among other things, she plays tennis twice a week.* 4 (when things are shared by more than two people) to each of: *Divide the money among the five of them.* (Compare *Divide the money between the two of them.*) —see BETWEEN (USAGE)

a-mor-al /eɪˈmɒrəl, æ-||eɪˈmɔː-, -ˈmɑː-/ *adj* 1 having no

understanding of right and wrong: *Young children and animals are amoral.* —compare IMMORAL, MORAL **2** not caring whether behaviour is right or wrong: *The killer was an amoral man who felt no remorse.* — ~ **ity** /,eɪmɒˈrælɪti/, -æ-||,eɪmɒ-/ *n* [U]

am-o-rous /'æməɾəs/ *adj* feeling or expressing love, esp. sexual love: *amorous glances* | *She refused his amorous advances.* (=attempts to start a sexual relationship) — ~ **ly adv** — ~ **ness n** [U]

a-mor-phous /ə'mɔ:fəs||-ɔ:r-/ *adj* having no fixed form or shape: *an amorphous mass of metal* | *I can't understand his amorphous plans.* — ~ **ly adv** — ~ **ness n** [U]

a-mor-ti-za-tion ||also -**tis-** *BrE* /ə,mɔ:taɪ'zeɪʃən||,æməɾtə-/ *n* [C;U] **1** the amortizing of a debt **2** the reduction in value from year to year of the equipment and property (ASSETS) of a business, which is calculated for the purpose of deciding the business's worth

a-mor-tize also -**tise** *BrE* /ə'mɔ:taɪz||'æməɾ-/ *v* [T] *tech* to pay off (a debt), esp. by regular small amounts — **-tizable adj**

A-mos and An-dy /,eɪmɒs ənd 'ændi||-məs-/ two black characters in an old American radio programme, who were played by white actors. Because Amos and Andy were played as rather stupid and other characters were lazy or tried to make money without working, many people see this programme as an example of a white RACIST view of black people.

a-mount¹ /ə'maʊnt/ *n* **1** [(of)] a collection or mass considered as a unit in terms of its size, number, etc.: *Large amounts of money were spent on the bridge.* | *Her case has attracted an enormous amount of public sympathy.* | *He could only pay half the amount he owed.* | *These figures should be treated with a certain amount of* (=some) *caution/scepticism.* **2** **any amount of** a large quantity of; plenty of: *You'll have any amount of time after your examination.*

▷ **USAGE** **Amount** is usually used with uncountable nouns: *a large amount of money.* With most plurals it is better to use **number**: *a large number of mistakes.* However, **amount** is used when talking about goods which are handled in large quantities: *The shopkeeper had a large amount of oranges in his storeroom.* ◁

amount² *v*

amount to sthg. *phr v* [T *not in progressive forms*] to be equal to, e.g. in quantity or in meaning: *Her reply amounts to a refusal.* | *She hasn't actually refused, but it amounts to the same thing.* | *Our debts amount to over \$1000.* [+*v-ing*] *Not punishing these hooligans amounts to condoning their behaviour.*

a-mour /ə'mʊə/ *n* becoming rare a sexual relationship, esp. one that is secret

amp /æmp/ *n* **1** also **ampere** /'æmpeə/||'æmpɪə/ *fml—tech* the standard measure of the flow of electrical current past a point; the current that flows when one VOLT meets a RESISTANCE of one OHM **2** *infml* for AMPLIFIER

am-per-age /'æmpərɪdʒ/ *n* [S;U] the strength of an electrical current measured in amps

am-per-sand /'æmpəsænd||-ər-/ *n* the sign & for the word "and"

am-phet-a-mine /æm'fetəmi:n, -mɪn/ *n* [C;U] a drug used esp. formerly in medicine and, esp. illegally, by people wanting excitement

am-phis-i-an /æm'fɪbiən/ *n* an animal, such as a FROG, that is able to live both on land and in water

am-phis-i-ous /æm'fɪbiəs/ *adj* able to live or move both on land and in water: *Frogs are amphibious.* | *an amphibious vehicle* | *an amphibious aircraft* (=one that can land and take off on water)

am-phi-thea-tre *BrE* || -**ter** *AmE* /'æmfɪθiəteɪ/ *n* a large roofless building with rows of seats on a slope all round a central area, used for competitions and plays, esp. in ancient Rome and Greece

am-pho-ra /'æmfərə/ *n* -**ras** or -**rae** /rɪz/ a narrow clay pot with two handles used, esp. in ancient Rome and Greece, for storing wine, oil, etc.

am-ple /'æmpəl/ *adj* **1** enough or more than enough: *We have ample money for the journey.* | *He was given ample opportunity to express his views.* —compare ADEQUATE (1) **2** with plenty of space; large; SPACIOUS: *a house with an ample garden* — **-ply adv**: *Whoever finds the necklace will be amply rewarded.* (=given a lot of money)

am-pli-fi-er /'æmplɪfaɪə/ also **amp** *infml—n* an instrument, as used in radios and record players, that makes electrical current or power stronger, esp. so as to make sound louder

am-pli-fy /'æmplɪfaɪ/ *v* **1** [I (on, upon); T] *fml* to increase in size, effect, etc., esp. by explaining in greater detail; EXPAND: *He amplified (on) his remarks with a graph showing the latest sales figures.* **2** [T] to increase the strength of (something, esp. sound coming through electrical instruments): *an amplified guitar* — **-fication** /,æmplɪfɪ'keɪʃən/ *n* [S;U]

am-pli-tude /'æmplɪtju:d||-tu:d/ *n* [U] **1** *fml* the quality of being ample, esp. a great quantity; ABUNDANCE **b** largeness of space **2** *tech* the distance between the middle and the top (or bottom) of a wave such as a sound wave —see AM

am-poule /'æmpu:l/ also **am-pule** /'æmpju:l/ — *n* a small usu. glass container for medicine that is to be taken by INJECTION (=by being put under a person's skin through a needle)

am-pu-tate /'æmpjʊteɪt/ *v* [I; T] to cut off (all or part of a limb), esp. for medical reasons: *to amputate a finger* | *Her leg was so badly damaged that the doctors had to amputate (it).* —compare EXCISE² — **-tation** /,æmpjʊ'teɪʃən/ *n* [C;U]

am-pu-tee /,æmpjʊ'ti:z/ *n* a person who has had an arm or leg amputated

Am-rit-sar /æm'ɪɾtsə/ a city in the Punjab in north-west India. The Golden Temple in Amritsar is a holy place for Sikhs and the centre of the Sikh religion. In 1919 a peaceful gathering of Indian men, women, and children were trapped in Amritsar by British troops and fired at. Over 300 were killed and 1,000 injured. In 1984, about 1,000 Sikhs were killed in the Golden Temple by the Indian Army.

Am-ster-dam /'æmstədəm||-tər-/ the capital city of the Netherlands in North Holland

Am-strad /'æmstrəd/ *tdmk* a British company started by Alan Sugar best known for its low-cost personal computers used mainly for word processing

Am-trak /'æmtræk/ *tdmk* the company which runs passenger trains in the US: *Will you fly or take Amtrak?* —compare CONRAIL

a-muck /ə'mʌk/ *adv* AMOK

am-u-let /'æmjʊlət, -let||'æmjʊlət/ *n* an object worn in the belief that it will protect one against evil, disease, bad luck, etc.

Am-und-sen /'æməndsən||'a:z-/ , **Ro-ald** /'rəʊəld/ (1872–1928) a Norwegian EXPLORER who was the first person to reach the South Pole in 1911

a-muse /ə'mju:z/ *v* [T] **1** to excite the sense of humour of; cause to laugh or smile: *His silly jokes amused the children.* | *We were greatly amused to hear about him sitting on the wet paint.* | *She was not at all amused* (=very annoyed) *when she heard what they had done.* | *an amused expression on her face* **2** to cause to spend time in a pleasant manner; entertain; DIVERT: *The new toys amused her/kept her amused for hours.* | *The children amused themselves by playing games.* **3** **we are not amused** a phrase which is believed to have been used by Queen Victoria, now often used humorously

a-muse-ment /ə'mju:zmənt/ *n* **1** [U] the state of being amused; enjoyment: *I listened in amusement.* | **To everyone's amusement** *the actor fell off the stage.* **2** [C] something that makes one's time pass pleasantly; DIVERSION: *Big cities have theatres, films, football matches, and many other amusements.*

amusement ar-cade /'.. ., / || usu. **video arcade** *AmE* — *n* a place full of machines which spin numbers or with which one can play games after putting coins into them

amusement park /'.. . / *n* *AmE* a park in which a person can ride on machines such as ROLLER COASTERS and perhaps play games of skill or chance. The most well known amusement parks in the US are Disneyland and Disneyworld.

a-mus-ing /ə'mju:zɪŋ/ *adj* causing amusement; funny: *an amusing book/incident/person* | *I don't find his jokes very amusing.* — ~ **ly adv**

Am-way /'æmweɪ/ *tdmk* **1** an American company which sells cleaning products. Amway does not sell its goods

in stores but instead has an organization which allows people to sell the products in their spare time and then receive a payment from the company based on how much they sell. People who sell Amway are usually middle-class and often hold parties at which they sell Amway products: *an Amway party* **2** a cleaning product made by this company: *Jill and Bob sell Amway to earn extra cash.*

an /ən; strong æn/ *indefinite article, determiner* (used when the following word begins with a vowel sound) a: *an awful noise | an elephant | an hour | an RAF pilot | an LP*

▷ **USAGE** When putting **a** or **an** before a set of letters such as RAF, you must consider how the letters are said, not whether the letters themselves are vowels or consonants. RAF begins with the consonant *r*, but the letter is said with the vowel sound /ɑː/. Thus you say **an RAF officer** and **a UN official** ◀

An-a-bap-tist /,ænə'bəptɪst/ *n* a member of a group within the Christian religion that thinks that only people who believe (and therefore not very young children) should be baptized (BAPTIZE (1))

an-a-bol-ic ster-oid /,ænəbɒlɪk 'stɪərɔɪd, -'ste-||-bɔː-/ *n* any of various artificial substances that make muscles grow quickly and are taken, esp. by ATHLETES, to increase strength. Many competitions, such as the Olympic Games, do not allow athletes who use anabolic steroids to compete.

a-nach-ro-nis-m /ə'nækronɪzəm/ *n* a person, thing, or idea that is or appears to be in the wrong period of time: *Some people believe that the British House of Lords is an anachronism.* —**nistic** /ə'nækronɪstɪk/ *adj* —**nistically** /kli/ *adv*

an-a-con-da /,ænə'kɒndə||-'kɑːn-/ *n* a large S American snake that crushes its food to death

a-nae-mi-a also **anemia** *AmE* /ə'nɪzmɪə/ *n* [U] an unhealthy condition in which there are too few red cells in the blood

a-nae-mic also **anemic** *AmE* /ə'nɪzmɪk/ *adj* **1** suffering from anaemia **2** lacking forcefulness or spirit: *an anaemic performance* — **~ally** /kli/ *adv*

an-ae-ro-bic /,ænə'rəʊbɪk/ *adj* *tech* not needing oxygen in order to live or happen

an-aes-the-si-a also **anes-** *AmE* /,ænɪs'teɪzɪə||-zə/ *n* [U] the state of being unable to feel pain, esp. as a result of a physical wound, illness of the mind, drugs, etc.

an-aes-thet-ic also **anes-** *AmE* /,ænɪs'tetɪk/ *n* [C;U] a substance that produces an inability to feel pain, either in a limited area (**local anaesthetic**) or in the whole body, together with unconsciousness (**general anaesthetic**): *The patient was under an anaesthetic when the operation was performed.*

a-naes-the-tist also **anes-** *AmE* /ə'nɪsθetɪst||ə'nes-/ *n* a doctor who gives an anaesthetic to a patient

a-naes-the-tize also **anes-** *AmE*, **-tise** *BrE* /ə'nɪsθetɪz||ə'nes-/ *v* [T] to make unable to feel pain by giving an anaesthetic, esp. in order to perform an operation

an-a-gram /'ænəgræm/ *n* a word or phrase made by changing the order of the letters in another word or phrase: *"Silent" is an anagram of "listen".*

An-a-heim /'ænəhaɪm/ a city in S California in the US, which contains the amusement centre, Disneyland, and has a large electronics industry

a-nal /'eɪnəl/ *adj* of, concerning, or near the ANUS

an-al-ge-si-a /,ænəl'dʒɪzɪə||-zə/ *n* [U] *tech* the condition of being unable to feel pain even though conscious

an-al-ge-sic /,ænəl'dʒɪzɪk/ *n* [C;U] a substance that causes analgesia, such as a drug or a cream that is rubbed into the skin: *Aspirin is a mild analgesic.* —**analgesic** *adj*

a-nal-o-gous /ə'næləgəs/ *adj* [(to, with)] *fml* similar or alike in some ways; able to be compared (with): *The movement of particles in an atom is analogous to/with the way the planets move round the sun.*

an-a-logue, **-log** /'ænəlɒg||-lə:g, -lɑːg/ *n* [(of)] *fml* something that is in some way similar to something else

analogue com-put-er /,...·'.../ *n* a type of computer, now used only for certain special purposes, that performs operations by measuring continuously varying quantities rather than by a BINARY system of counting — compare DIGITAL COMPUTER

a-nal-o-gy /ə'nælədʒi/ *n* **1** [C (to, with, between)] a degree

of similarity between one thing or process and another, which makes it possible to explain something by comparing it to something else: *The author draws an analogy between the way water moves in waves and the way light travels.* **2** [U] the act of comparing one thing with another thing that is in some way similar, esp. in order to explain: *to explain the movement of light by analogy with that of water*

an-a-lyse also **-lyze** *AmE* /'ænəlaɪz/ *v* [T] **1** to examine (something) by dividing it into its separate parts, in order to learn about its qualities, meaning, etc.: *He analysed the food and found it contained poison.* | *to analyse a sentence when studying grammar* | *Let's analyse the problem and see what went wrong.* —compare SYNTHESIZE **2** to PSYCHOANALYSE

a-nal-y-sis /ə'nælɪsɪs/ *n* -ses /sɪz/ **1** [C;U] examination of something by dividing it into its separate parts: *The analysis of the food showed the presence of poison.* —compare SYNTHESIS **2** [C] an examination of something together with thoughts and judgments about it: *Our analysis shows that the company's failure was caused by lack of investment.* | *a detailed analysis of the week's news* **3** [U] PSYCHOANALYSIS **4** in the final/last analysis when everything has been considered; ULTIMATELY: *In the last analysis, the responsibility for this failure must lie with the minister.*

an-a-lyst /'ænəlɪst/ *n* **1** a person who makes an analysis, e.g. of chemical materials: *a food analyst | a political analyst* **2** a PSYCHOANALYST —see also SYSTEMS ANALYST

an-a-lyt-ic /,ænə'lɪtɪk/ also **an-a-lyt-i-cal** /-kəl/ *adj* using, or skilled in using, methods of careful examination, esp. in order to separate things into their parts: *She has a very analytic mind.* | *computer-based analytical techniques* — **~ally** /kli/ *adv*

an-a-paest /'ænəpest, -pɪst/ also **-pest** /pest/ *AmE* — *n* *tech* a measure of poetry consisting of two weak (or short) beats followed by one strong (or long) beat — **~ic** /,ænə'pestɪk/, -'pɪ-||-'pe-/ *adj*, *n*

an-ar-chic /'ænɑːkɪk||-ɑːr-/ *adj* of, like, or likely to cause anarchy, esp. in lacking order or control: *The situation in the country is becoming increasingly anarchic.* | *an anarchic style of painting* — **~ally** /kli/ *adv*

an-ar-chis-m /'ænəkɪzəm||-nər-/ *n* [U] the political belief that society should have no government, laws, police, etc., but should be a free association of all its members

an-ar-chist /'ænəkɪst||-ər-/ *n* *esp. derog* a person who believes that all forms of government or control are unnecessary or undesirable, and sometimes supports the use of violence to destroy governments — **~ic** /,ænə'kɪstɪk||-ər-/ *adj* — **~ically** /kli/ *adv*

an-ar-chy /'ænəkɪ||-ər-/ *n* [U] **1** lawlessness and social and political disorder caused by absence of government or control **2** complete absence of government **3** any state of disorder and confusion: *a newspaper report on anarchy in our schools*

a-nath-e-ma /ə'næθɪmə/ *n* **1** [S;U (to)] something that one regards with strong dislike and disapproval: *His political views are (an) anathema to me.* **2** [C] *tech* someone or something that has been cursed by the Christian church

a-nath-e-ma-tize also **-tise** *BrE* /ə'næθɪmətaɪz/ *v* [T] *tech* (in the Christian church) to put a curse on

An-a-to-li-a /,ænə'təʊliə/ the Asian part of Turkey —see ASIA MINOR

an-a-tom-i-cal /,ænə'tɒmɪkəl||-'tɑː-/ *adj* of or concerned with anatomy: *an anatomical description of the leg* — **~ly** /kli/ *adv*

a-nat-o-mist /ə'nætəmɪst/ *n* a person skilled in ANATOMY (1)

a-nat-o-my /ə'nætəmi/ *n* **1** [U] the scientific study of the bodies and body parts of people and animals —compare PHYSIOLOGY **2** [C] *often humor* the body of a person or animal: *The ball hit him on a rather delicate part of his anatomy.* **3** [C;U] the DISSECTION (=cutting into pieces) of a body or part of a person or animal to study the way it works or is built **4** [C *usu. sing.*] the way a living thing works or is built: *a lesson on the anatomy of the frog* | (fig.) *The book studies the anatomy of modern society.*

ANC /,eɪ en 'sɪz/ [*the*] the African National Congress; a political movement in South Africa, established in 1912, known for its fight against APARTHEID. Its most famous leader is Nelson Mandela.

an-ces-tor /'ænsəstəʳ, -ses-||-ses-/ **an-ces-tress** /-trɪs/ *fem.* — *n* [(of)] a person from whom one is descended, esp. one who lived a long time ago: *My ancestors came from Spain.* | (fig.) *This machine is the ancestor of the modern computer.* — compare DESCENDANT

► **CULTURAL NOTE** Most people do not know the names of their ancestors but some people, esp. in the US and Canada do try to find out about them. ◀

an-ces-tral /æn'sestrəl/ *adj* [A] belonging to or coming from one's ancestors: *my ancestral home*

an-ces-try /'ænsəstri, -ses-||-ses-/ *n* [C *usu. sing.*; U] a person's ancestors considered as a group or as a continuous line: *a woman of noble ancestry* | *Scottish ancestry* | *to trace one's ancestry* (=find out who one's ancestors were)

an-chor¹ /'æŋkəʳ/ *n* **1** a piece of heavy metal, usu. a hook with two arms, at the end of a chain or rope, for lowering into the water to keep a ship from moving: *We sailed round the coast and came to anchor* (=stopped sailing and lowered the anchor) *in a pleasant little bay.* *In the morning we weighed anchor* (=pulled it up) *and sailed on.* | *fishing boats riding/lying at anchor* (=floating and held by their anchors) | *The ship dropped anchor* (=lowered the anchor) *at Plymouth.* **2** a person or thing that provides support and a feeling of safety **3** *AmE* an ANCHORPERSON — see also SHEET ANCHOR

anchor² *v* **1** [I] to stop sailing and lower the anchor **2** [T] to fix firmly in position: *to anchor the roof of a house* **3** [T] *esp. AmE* to serve as an anchorperson of: *She anchors the top-rated news show.*

an-chor-age /'æŋkərɪdʒ/ *n* **1** [C] a place where ships may anchor **2** [C; U] a means of making firm: *Rub the door with sandpaper to provide anchorage for the next coat of paint.*

Anchorage the largest city in Alaska, US, with a large port and a busy industrial airport

an-cho-rite /'æŋkəraɪt/ *n* a person who lives alone for religious reasons; HERMIT

an-chor-per-son /'æŋkə,pɜːsən||'æŋkə,pɜːrsən/ also **-man** /,mæn/ *masc.*, **-wom-an** /,wʊmən/ *fem.* — *n* *esp. AmE* a broadcaster, usu. on television, who is in charge of a news broadcast and appears on it to connect one part of the broadcast with the next

an-cho-vy /'æntʃəvi||'æntʃəʊvi/ *n* **-vies or -vy** [C; U] a small strong-tasting fish: *The pizza was decorated with slices of anchovy.* | *anchovy paste*

an-cient¹ /'eɪnfənt/ *adj* **1** [A] in or of times long ago: *ancient Rome and Greece* | *a course in ancient history* **2** having existed for a very long time: *ancient customs/ruins* **3** *usu. humor* (of people or objects) very old: *my ancient car* | *My grandparents are rather ancient.*

► **USAGE** **Ancient** can be used to talk about the people of civilizations long ago: *the ancient Romans.* But it is usu. derogatory or humorous when used of a living person with the meaning "very old": *the ancient caretaker of the building.* — see OLD (USAGE) ◀

ancient² *n* old use an old man

Ancient Mar-i-ner /,.. '.../ [*the*] the main character in the poem *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* by Samuel Taylor Coleridge. He is an old sailor (MARINER) who shot down an ALBATROSS and, because the other sailors thought he had brought bad luck to the ship, wore the albatross on a rope round his neck. Many unlucky and terrible things happen and the sailor later tells his story to anyone who will listen: *He was like the Ancient Mariner, condemned for ever to tell and re-tell the story of his past.* — see also ALBATROSS

an-cients /'eɪnfənts/ *n* [*the+P*] (*often cap.*) the European nations of ancient times, esp. as represented by the writers of ancient Greece and Rome: *to study the scientific beliefs of the ancients*

an-cil-la-ry /æn'sɪləri||'ænsɪləri/ *adj* providing help, support, or additional services: *the ancillary staff of a hospital* (=the people who do cleaning work, cooking, etc.) — **ancillary** *n* : *hospital ancillaries*

and /ænd, ən, strong ænd/ *conj* **1** (used to join two things, esp. words of the same type or parts of sentences of the same importance) as well as; also: *a knife and fork* | *John and I* | *He started to shout and sing.* | *a mixture of sugar, flour, and water* | *We were cold and hungry.* | *We solved the problem by reducing our costs and borrowing more*

money. **2** then; afterwards: *She knocked on the door and went in.* | *I woke up and got out of bed.* | *We don't know yet if the operation was a success — we'll just have to wait and see.* **3** (expresses a result or explanation): *Water the seeds and they will grow.* | *She was sick and took some medicine.* (=because she was sick) Compare *She took some medicine and was sick.* (=because she took the medicine) **4** (joins repeated words) **a** to show that something continues to happen: *We ran and ran.* | *We waited for hours and hours.* | *It came nearer and nearer.* **b** *infml* to show a difference in quality or kind: *There are dictionaries and dictionaries.* (=some are much better than others) **5 a** (used instead of **to** after **come, go, try**, etc.): *Come and have tea with me.* | *Try and get here before 4 o'clock.* **b** (used after **nice** or **good** to add force): *It's nice and sunny today.* | *The soup was good and hot.* **6** (in saying numbers, used before the numbers 1 to 99 and after the word **hundred**, but sometimes left out in *AmE*): *one million, two hundred and fifty-three thousand, four hundred and twenty-six* (=1,253,426) **7** (in descriptions of food or drinks) served with: *bacon and eggs* | *a gin and tonic* | *bread and butter* (=bread spread with butter) **8 and how!** *sl* (used to give force to the idea just expressed) very much so: *"Did you enjoy yourselves?" "And how!"* **9 and so on/forth** and other things of that kind: *pots, pans, dishes, and so on*

an-dan-te /æn'dænti, -teɪ||æn'daɪn-/ *n, adj, adv* (a piece of music) played rather slowly

An-der-sen /'ændəsən||-dər-/ **Hans Chris-tian** /hæns 'krɪstʃən/ (1805–75) a Danish writer famous for his many FAIRY TALES which include *The Snow Queen*, *The Little Match Girl*, and *The Ugly Duckling*

Anderson, **Sher-wood** /'ʃɜːwʊd||'ʃɜːr-/ (1876–1941) an American writer best known for his NOVEL *Winesburg, Ohio* about the loneliness and dissatisfaction of life in a small town

Anderson shel-ter /'... ,.../ *n* a small metal AIR-RAID shelter used in Britain during the Second World War

An-des /'ændɪz/ [*the*] the mountains in the west of South America which separate the narrow coastal area from the rest of the CONTINENT

an-di-ron /'ændarən||-ərən/ also **firedog** — *n* either of a pair of supports for burning logs in a fireplace

An-dor-ra /æn'dɔːrə/ a small, mountainous, partly independent state on the border between France and Spain, popular as a place for holidays and skiing (SKI²); population 50,000 (1989) — **Andorran** *n, adj*

-andr- see WORD FORMATION

An-dret-ti /æn'dreti/, **Mar-i-o** /'mæriəʊ||'mɑː-/ (1940–) an Italian-born American race car driver: *Stop driving so fast! Who do you think you are, Mario Andretti?*

An-drew /'ændruː/, **Prince** the third child of Queen Elizabeth II of Great Britain, a pilot in the Royal Navy, who married Sarah Ferguson in 1986. His title is the Duke of York. In 1992 he and his wife separated.

Andrew, St. see SAINT ANDREW

An-drews /'ændruːz/, **Ju-lie** /'dʒuzli/ (1935–) an English singer and actress whose appearance in the films *Mary Poppins* and *The Sound of Music* helped to give her a pure and healthy image — see colour picture on page 685

Andrews, Éa-monn /'eɪmən/ (1922–87) a television and radio personality from Ireland known esp. as the presenter of the British television programme *This is Your Life*

An-drex /'ændreks/ *n* [U] *tdmk* a type of TOILET PAPER

An-dro-cles and the Li-on /,ændrəkliːz ənd θə 'laɪən/ an old story of a slave (Androcles) who escapes from a cruel master and meets a lion with a THORN in its foot. Androcles removes the thorn and is later caught and made to fight with a lion in the ARENA as a punishment for running away from his master. However, the lion he is supposed to fight is the one he helped, and instead of attacking, it greets Androcles as a friend. George Bernard Shaw wrote an amusing play based on this story.

an-drog-y-nous /æn'drɒdʒɪnəs||-'draː-/ *adj* (*esp. of plants*) having both male and female characteristics

an-droid /'ændrɔɪd/ *n* (in stories) a ROBOT in human form

An-drop-ov /æn'drɒpɒf||æn'drɒːpɒf/, **Yu-ri** /'juəri/ (1914–84) a Soviet politician who was general secretary of the Communist Party (1982–4)

An-dy Capp /ˌændi 'kæp/ a character in a **CARTOON**, originally in a British newspaper, who wears a flat cap. He is considered to be a **STEREOTYPE** of a rather old-fashioned British working-class man who is lazy, ignores his wife, and enjoys drinking beer in the pub: *an Andy Capp-like shirker*

Andy Pan-dy /ˌændi 'pændi/ a **PUPPET** character in a British children's television programme in the 1950s and 1960s, who wore a blue and white **STRIPED** suit

an·ec·dot·al /ˌænik'dəʊtl̩/ *adj* of, containing, telling, or full of anecdotes: *an anecdotal lecture about his travels* | *The theory relies more on anecdotal evidence than genuine statistics.*

an·ec·dote /ˌænikdəʊt/ *n* a short interesting or amusing story about a person or event

a·ne·mi·a /ə'ni:miə/ *n* [U] *esp. AmE* for **ANAEMIA** — **anemic** *adj* — **anemically** /kli/ *adv*

an·e·mom·e·ter /ˌænɒ'mɒmə'tɜː/ — 'mæz-/ *n* a machine for measuring the strength of wind — see picture at **METER**

a·nem·o·ne /ə'neməni/ *n* **1** a plant with red, white, or blue flowers **2** a **SEA ANEMONE** — see picture at **SEA**

an·e·roid ba·rom·e·ter /ˌænərɔɪd bə'rɒmə'tɜː/ — 'ræz-/ *n* an instrument (**BAROMETER**) that measures changes in air pressure in order to tell what the weather is going to be or how high one is above sea level. It works by measuring the action of air pressure on a metal container emptied of air.

an·es·the·si·a /ˌænɪs'thi:ziə/ — ʒə/ *n* [U] *esp. AmE* for **ANAESTHESIA** — **anesthetic** /-'θetɪk/ *n* — **anesthetist** /ə'ni:sthi:tɪst/ — 'nes-/ *n* — **anesthetize** /-θɪ'taɪz/ *v* [T]

a·new /ə'njuː/ — 'nuː/ *adv* *esp. lit* in a new or different way; again

An·field /'ænfi:ld/ the ground where Liverpool Football Club plays

an·gel /'eɪndʒəl/ *n* **1** a servant of God, who is believed by religious people to appear sometimes to people and bring them messages from God. Angels are usu. represented as a person with wings and dressed in white. — see also **GUARDIAN ANGEL** **2** a person who is very kind, beautiful, etc. **3** *infml* someone who is ready to support something, esp. a play or a film, by lending money **4** **on the side of the angels** supporting the side that is morally right — **~ic** /æn'dʒelɪk/ *adj*: *Don't be deceived by his angelic smile!* — **~ically** /kli/ *adv*



angel dust /'.. ɹ̩/ *n* [U] *AmE sl* for **PCP**

Angel Falls /ɹ̩ ɹ̩/ a waterfall in SE Venezuela which has the world's highest uninterrupted fall

angel-food cake /'.. ɹ̩/ *n* [C;U] *AmE* a very light white cake made with beaten egg whites

An·gel·i·co /æn'dʒelɪkəʊ/, **Fra** /frɑː/ (1400?–1455) an Italian **MONK** (Christian holy man) and painter, known esp. for his pictures on church walls

An·ge·lou /'ændʒluː/, **May·a** /'maɪə/ (1928–) a black American writer whose best known book is *I know why the Caged Bird Sings*

an·ge·lus /'ændʒləs/ *n* [*the+S*] (*often cap.*) a bell that is rung three times a day in Roman Catholic churches to tell the people when to say a particular prayer

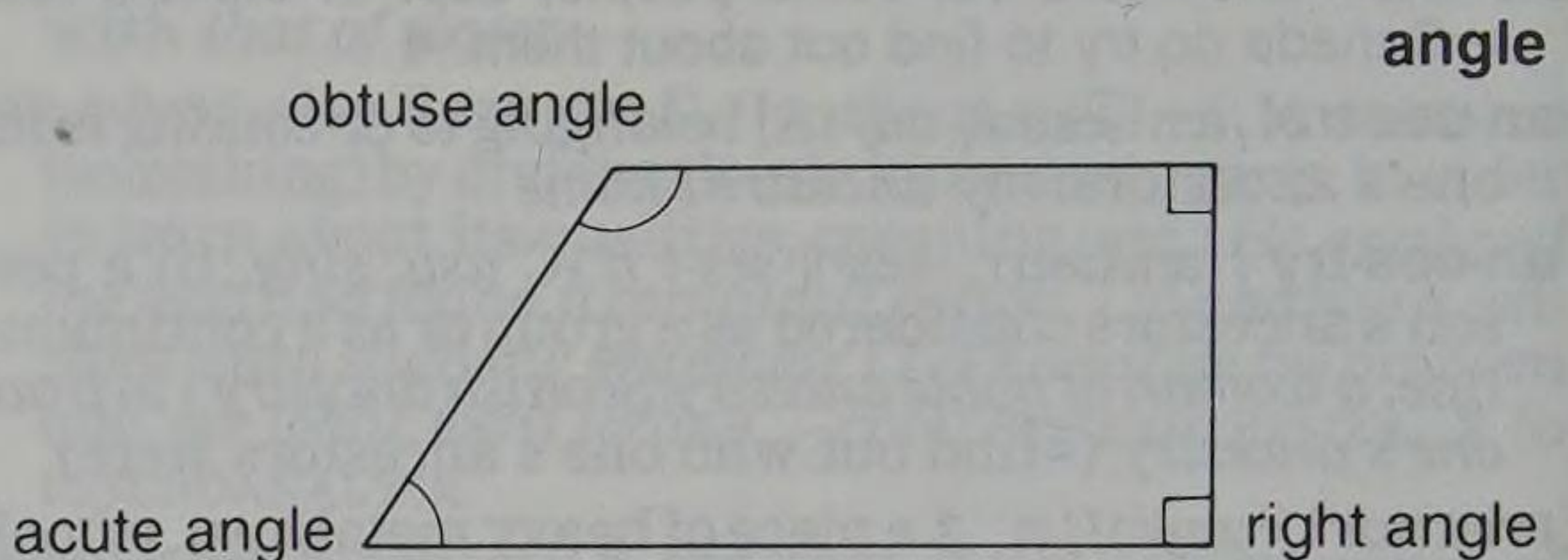
an·ger¹ /'æŋɡə/ *n* [U] a strong and sometimes violent feeling of displeasure, usu. leading to a desire to hurt or stop the person or thing causing it; extreme annoyance. Anger is one of the Seven Deadly Sins: *She could hardly contain (=control) her anger.* | *The workers reacted with anger and frustration to the closure of the factory.* | *suppressed anger* — see also **SEVEN DEADLY SINS**

anger² *v* [T] to make angry; **INFURIATE**

an·gi·na pec·to·ris /æn'dʒaɪnə 'pektərɪs/ also **angina** *n* [U] a heart disease causing sudden sharp pains in the chest

an·gle¹ /'æŋɡəl/ *n* **1** the space between two lines or surfaces that meet or cross each other, measured in degrees that represent the amount of a circle that can fit into that

space: *An angle of 90° is called a right angle.* | *a sharp angle* | *The plant was growing at an angle.* (=not straight or upright) | *He took photographs of the statue from several different angles.* **2** a corner, e.g. of a building or piece of furniture **3** *infml* a point of view; **STANDPOINT**: *If you look at the accident from another angle you will see how funny it all was.*



angle² *v* [T] **1** to turn or move at an angle: *a mirror angled so as to reflect light from a window* **2** *often derog* to represent (something) from a particular point of view; **SLANT**¹ (2): *She angles her reports to suit the people she is speaking to.*

angle³ *v* *esp. BrE* [I] to try to catch fish with a hook and line: *He loves (to go) angling on a fine summer day.* — compare **FISH**² (1)

angle for sthg. *phr v* [T] *often derog* to try to get, esp. by means of indirect remarks or requests: *She's angling for an invitation/for compliments.*

An·gle·poise /'æŋɡəlpoɪz/ *n*, **Anglepoise lamp** /ɹ̩ ɹ̩/ — *BrE tdmk* a type of lamp which can be moved on its support into different positions, often used on desks — see picture at **LIGHT**

an·gler /'æŋɡlə/ *n* a person who tries to catch fish with a hook and line

An·gle·sey /'æŋɡəlsi/ an island off the NW coast of Wales connected to the mainland by road and railway bridges — see colour map on page 818

An·gli·a /'æŋɡliə/ one of the British television companies controlled by the ITC, **TRANSMITTING** programmes to East Anglia

Anglian Wa·ter /ɹ̩ ɹ̩/ a water company in E England that deals with the supply of water to people and businesses, and the removal and treatment of **SEWAGE**

An·gli·can /'æŋɡlɪkən/ *n, adj* (a member) of the Church of England, a branch of the Christian religion — **~ism** *n* [U]

Anglican Com·mu·nion /ɹ̩ ɹ̩/ [*the*] the group of churches around the world, mostly in English-speaking countries, that are descended from the Church of England and are closely related to it in practice and belief

an·gli·cis·m /'æŋɡlɪsɪzəm/ *n* an English word or phrase that is in common use in another language

an·gli·cize also **-cise** *BrE* /'æŋɡlɪsaɪz/ *v* [T] to make English or British in appearance, sound, character, etc.

Anglo- see **WORD FORMATION**,

Anglo-A·mer·i·can¹ /ɹ̩ ɹ̩/ *adj* of or between both Britain and America, esp. the US: *Anglo-American trade*

Anglo-American² *n* an American, esp. of the US, who is descended from a British family

Anglo-Cath·o·lic /ɹ̩ ɹ̩/ *n, adj* (a member) of the part of the Church of England whose beliefs and ceremonies are similar to those of the Roman Catholic Church — **~ism** /ɹ̩ ɹ̩/ *n* [U]

Anglo-In·di·an /ɹ̩ ɹ̩/ *n* **1** a person who is descended from both British and Indian families **2** *old use* a British person born or living in India — **Anglo-Indian** *adj*

Anglo-I·rish A·gree·ment /ɹ̩ ɹ̩/ [*the*] an agreement, signed in 1985, between the governments of Britain and the Republic of Ireland. It gave the Republic of Ireland the right to take part in discussions on the affairs of Northern Ireland.

an·glo·phile /'æŋɡləʊfaɪl, -glə-/ *n* a non-British person who is interested in and likes British people and things

an·glo·phil·i·a /'æŋɡləʊ'fɪliə, -glə-/ *n* [U] interest in and liking for Britain

an·glo·phobe /'æŋɡləʊfəʊb, -glə-/ *n* a non-British person who hates British people and things

an·glo·pho·bi·a /'æŋɡləʊ'fəʊbiə, -glə-/ *n* [U] hatred of Britain

Anglo-Sax·on /ɹ̩ ɹ̩/ *n* **1** [C] also **Saxon** — a member of

the people who lived in England in early times, from about 600 AD **2** [U] the language of the Anglo-Saxons — **Anglo-Saxon** /ˌæŋˈɡlɒsən/ *adj*

An-go-la /æŋˈɡəʊlə/ a country in SW Africa which was called Portuguese West Africa until it became independent in 1975; capital Luanda; population 9,747,000 (1989) — **Angolan** *n, adj*

an-go-ra /æŋˈɡɔːrə/ *n* **1** [C] (*often cap.*) a type of goat (**angora goat**) or rabbit (**angora rabbit**) with long silky hair **2** [U] woollen material or thread made from the hair of an angora rabbit. Things made from angora are expensive and are considered to be LUXURY goods. — compare MOHAIR

an-gos-tur-a /ˌæŋɡəˈstʃʊərə/ *n* [U] a bitter liquid used for adding taste to alcoholic drinks

an-gry /ˈæŋɡri/ *adj* [(with, at)] **1** feeling or showing anger: *Angry demonstrators jeered at the President.* | *an angry look on her face* | *angry criticism/words* | *I was angry with him for keeping me waiting.* | *I was angry at the delay.* | *Her rudeness made me really angry.* | *an angry exchange of views* **2** (of the sky or clouds) stormy — **angrily** *adv*

▷ USAGE When talking about a person's general character, we do not describe the person as **angry**. Instead, we use words like **quick-tempered** (not too derogatory), **irritable** (fairly weak), **bad-tempered**, **ill-tempered**, **ill-natured** (stronger and more derogatory). — see also ANNOY (USAGE) ◁

Angry Young Man /ˌæŋɡri jʌŋ mæn/ *n* BrE a person who strongly criticizes established social and political institutions, first used to describe John Osborne and other British working-class or lower-middle-class writers in the 1950s. John Osborne's most famous play was *Look Back in Anger* and the main character, Jimmy Porter, was a typical Angry Young Man.

angst /æŋst/ *n* [U] anxiety and anguish caused esp. by considering the sad state of the world and/or the human condition

an-guish /ˈæŋɡwɪʃ/ *n* [U] very great pain and suffering, esp. of the mind: *She was in anguish over her missing child.* — **anguished** *adj*: *anguished cries*

an-gu-lar /ˈæŋɡjʊlə/ *adj* **1** having sharp corners **2** (of a person's body) with the bones able to be clearly seen; not rounded: *her sharp angular face* **3** [A] having or forming an angle or angles — **~ity** /ˈæŋɡjʊˈlærɪti/ *n* [C;U]

An-gus /ˈæŋɡəs/ a former COUNTY in E Scotland, now part of Tayside REGION

An-heu-ser-Busch /ˌænhaɪzə ˈbʊʃ/ *n* an American company which makes beer

an-i-mad-vert /ˌænɪmədˈvɜːrt/ *v* [I (on, upon, about)] *pomp* to speak about, esp. in a way that finds fault — **version** /ˈvɜːʃən/ *n*

Animal, Vege-table or Min-e-ral /ˌæɪməl ˌveɪɡətəbəl ˌmɪnɪrəl/ *AmE* for TWENTY QUESTIONS

an-i-mal /ˈænɪməl/ *n* **1** a living creature, not a plant, that has senses and is able to move itself when it wants to: *Snakes, fish, and birds are all animals.* | *Humans are the most intelligent of all the animals.* | *Man is a political animal.* **2** all this group except human beings: *farm animals* | *Should animals be kept in cages?* **3** a MAMMAL **4** a person considered as behaving like a wild non-human creature **5** all animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others *quote* a phrase from the book *Animal Farm* by George Orwell — see ANIMAL FARM **6** animal, vegetable or mineral a phrase used in popular British and American game shows on television and radio. In the games, people had to discover what an unknown object was by asking a number of questions.

animal ² *adj* **1** [A] of, concerning, or made from animals: *cooking with animal fats* | *animal feed* **2** of the body, not the mind or the spirit, esp. concerning one's APPETITES for food and sex: *animal desires*

animal crack-er /ˌæɪməl ˈkrækər/ *n* a small BISCUIT baked in the shape of an animal, usu. eaten by small children: *He ate a lion from his box of animal crackers.*

Animal Farm /ˌæɪməl ˈfɑːm/ a book by George Orwell. In the story, a group of animals decide to live in a society in which they are all equal, but the pigs soon become the leaders and state that they are in fact better than the others. They say that "All animals are equal, but some animals are

more equal than others." This phrase is often used when saying that it is impossible to organize a society as a COMMUNIST society, with everyone equal, because some people will always become the leaders sooner or later.

animal hus-band-ry /ˌæɪməl ˈhʌzbəndri/ *n* [U] the branch of farming concerned with the keeping of animals and the production of animal materials, such as milk and meat

Animal Lib-e-ra-tion Front /ˌæɪməl ˈlɪbəreɪʃən frʌnt/ (*abbrev. ALF*) [*the*] a British organization which protests against the use of animals for scientific EXPERIMENTS, such as testing drugs and beauty products. Some of its members have been involved in freeing the animals.

animal rights group /ˌæɪməl ˈraɪts grʊp/ *n* a group of people who protest against cruel treatment of animals

an-i-mate ¹ /ˈænɪmət/ *adj* (of plants and animals) having life; alive — opposite **inanimate**

an-i-mate ² /ˈænɪmət/ *v* [T] *rather fml* to give life or excitement to; ENLIVEN: *Laughter animated his face.*

an-i-ma-ted /ˈænɪmətɪd/ *adj* full of spirit and excitement; lively: *an animated argument/debate* — **~ly** *adv*

animated car-toon /ˌæɪmətɪd ˈkɑːtʊn/ *n fml* for CARTOON (2)

an-i-ma-tion /ˌænɪˈmeɪʃən/ *n* [U] **1** excitement; spirit; liveliness: *They were full of animation as they talked about their holiday.* **2** the making of CARTOONS

an-i-mis-m /ˈænɪmɪzəm/ *n* [U] a religion according to which natural objects, animals, and plants are believed to have souls — **~mist** *n, adj*

an-i-mos-i-ty /ˌænɪˈmɒsɪti/ *n* [C;U] (**towards, between**) (an example of) powerful, often active, hatred; HOSTILITY

an-i-seed /ˈænɪsɪd/ *n* [U] the strong-tasting seeds of a plant (**anise** /ˈænsɪs/), used esp. in alcoholic drinks

An-ka-ra /ˈæŋkərə/ the capital city of Turkey

an-kle /ˈæŋkəl/ *n* **1** the joint between the foot and the leg **2** the part of the leg just above the foot: *ankle socks* (=that do not reach beyond the ankles) — see picture at FOOT

an-klet /ˈæŋklɪt/ *n* a ring or BRACELET worn round the ankle as a decoration

An-na Ka-ren-in-a /ˌænə kəˈrenɪnə/ a NOVEL by the Russian writer Count Leo Tolstoy which is considered to be one of the greatest works of Russian literature. It tells the sad story of a married woman who loves a young army officer.

an-nals /ˈænz/ *n* [P (of)] *fml* a record of events or activities that is arranged in yearly parts, such as a record of the activities of a scientific society produced every year: *the Annals of the Zoological Society* | (fig.) *one of the most disgraceful episodes in the annals* (=history) *of British politics* — **annalist** *n*

An-nap-o-lis /ˌæˈnæpəlɪs/ the capital of the US state of Maryland, where the United States Naval Academy, the place where the navy trains its officers, is based. Annapolis is often used to mean the academy itself: *He'll be attending Annapolis in the fall.*

Anne /æn/, **Princess** (1950–) the second child and only daughter of Queen Elizabeth II of Great Britain. Her title is the Princess Royal. She won a gold MEDAL for horse-riding in the 1972 Olympic Games and is known for her CHARITY work as President of the Save the Children Fund. She was divorced (DIVORCE) from her first husband, Captain Mark Phillips, and remarried Commander Tim Laurence in 1992.

Anne, Queen (1665–1714) a queen of Great Britain and Ireland (1702–14) and daughter of James II — see also QUEEN ANNE

an-neal /əˈniːl/ *v* [T] to make (metal, glass, etc.) hard by allowing slowly to become cool after heating until soft

an-nex /əˈneks/ *v* [T (to)] to take control and possession of (land, a small country, etc.), esp. by force — **~ation** /ˌænekˈseɪʃən/ *n* [C;U]: *Rome's annexation of Britain in 43 AD*

an-nexe *esp. BrE* || **annex** *esp. AmE* /ˈæneks/ *n* a building joined or added to a larger one: *a hospital annexe*

An-ni-go-ni /ˌæniˈɡəʊni/, **Piet-ro** /ˈpietrəʊ/ (1910–88) an Italian PORTRAIT painter who has painted pictures of John F. Kennedy and Queen Elizabeth

an-ni-hi-late /əˈnaɪəleɪt/ *v* [T] to destroy completely: *We annihilated the enemy.* | (fig.) *His arguments were annihilated.* — **~lation** /əˈnaɪəˈleɪʃən/ *n* [U]: *the threat of*

annihilation by nuclear weapons/nuclear annihilation

an-ni-ver-sa-ry /ˌænɪˈvɜːsəri/ -3ɪr- *n* [(of)] a day which is an exact year or number of years after a particular event: *a wedding anniversary* | *It's the twentieth anniversary of our country's independence.* (=exactly 20 years since it became independent) | *anniversary celebrations* —compare BIRTHDAY

An-no Dom-i-ni /ˌænəʊ ˈdɒmɪnaɪ/ -ˈdaɪ- *fml* for AD

an-no-tate /ˌænəteɪ/ *v* [T] *fml* to add short notes to (a book) to explain certain parts: *an annotated edition of Shakespeare's plays* —**-tation** /ˌænəˈteɪʃən/ *n* [C;U]

an-nounce /əˈnaʊns/ *v* [T] **1** to make known publicly: *They announced the date of their wedding in the paper.* [+that] *The government has announced that electricity charges will go up in the spring.* | (fig.) *The bright flowers announced that spring was here.* **2** to state in a loud voice: *Everyone was silent as he announced the winner of the competition.* **3** to read (news) or introduce (a person or act) on the radio, television, etc. —see also UNANNOUNCED

an-nounce-ment /əˈnaʊnsmənt/ *n* **1** [C] a statement making publicly known something that has happened or will happen: *flight arrival announcements at the airport* | *a news/wedding announcement* | *I've got an important announcement to make.* **2** [U] the act of announcing something: *The announcement of the trade figures was delayed until after the election.*

an-nounc-er /əˈnaʊnsə/ *n* a person who reads news or introduces people, acts, etc., esp. on radio or television

an-noy /əˈnɔɪ/ *v* [T] to make (someone) a little angry or impatient, esp. by repeated troublesome actions or attacks; IRRITATE: *These flies are annoying me.* | *I was annoyed with him because he kept interrupting.* | *an annoying delay* | *It annoyed me to think how much time we had wasted.*

▷ USAGE Things that make you fairly angry **annoy** you, **irritate** you or, less commonly, **provoke** you, **incense** you, or **rile** you. In informal speech they can also be said to **aggravate** you, but some people do not like this use of the word —see also AGGRAVATE (USAGE). You find these things **annoying**, **irritating**, **provoking**, or **aggravating**. Things which make you very angry **infuriate** you, and you find them **infuriating**. ◀

an-noy-ance /əˈnɔɪəns/ *n* **1** [U] the feeling of being annoyed: *“Go away!” she replied with annoyance.* **2** [C] something which causes this: *The noisy traffic is a continual annoyance.*

an-nu-al /ˌænjuəl/ *adj* **1** (happening, appearing, etc.) every year or once a year: *an annual event/festival/convention* **2** of or for one year: *What's your annual salary?* —see also AGM —~**ly** *adv*

annual² *n* **1** a plant that lives for only one year or season —compare BIENNIAL **2** a book produced once each year having the same title but containing different stories, pictures, information, etc.: *the Football Annual for 1993*

annual ac-counts /ˌɪ... ˈɪ-/ *n* [P] a company's financial statement including the PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT and the BALANCE SHEET. In Britain public limited companies (PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANY) and in the US CORPORATIONS must, by law, produce annual accounts for people to see.

annual meet-ing /ˌɪ... ˈɪ-/ *n* AmE for AGM

annual re-port /ˌɪ... ˈɪ-/ *n* the report which a company sends to its SHAREHOLDERS each year, which may include annual accounts

annual re-turn /ˌɪ... ˈɪ-/ *n* a tax form that self-employed people in Britain complete each year, giving details of their income, etc., so that the amount of tax they must pay can be calculated

an-nu-i-ty /əˈnjuːɪti/ -ˈnuː- *n* a fixed sum of money paid each year to a person for a stated number of years or until death: *pension annuities*

an-nul /əˈnʌl/ *v* -ll- [T] *tech* to cause (a marriage, agreement, law, etc.) to no longer exist and to have no legal force. Catholics are not allowed to DIVORCE, but there are sometimes reasons for annulling a marriage —see also RESCIND —~**ment** *n* [C;U]

An-nun-ci-a-tion /əˈnʌnsiˈeɪʃən/ *n* [the] the occasion (celebrated by Christians on 25 March) on which the ANGEL (1) Gabriel appeared and told the Virgin Mary that she would bear the baby Jesus Christ

an-ode /ˈænəʊd/ also **positive pole**— *n* *tech* the part of an

electrical instrument (such as a BATTERY) which collects ELECTRONS, often a rod or wire represented by the sign (+) —compare CATHODE

an-o-dyne¹ /ˌænədaɪn/ *adj* often *derog* unlikely to offend or annoy anyone; BLAND: *After their meeting, the two leaders produced an anodyne statement that didn't really say anything at all.*

anodyne² *n* *fml* something which comforts a troubled mind or turns the attention away from more important matters

a-noint /əˈnɔɪnt/ *v* [T (with)] to put oil on (a person, head, or body), esp. in a religious ceremony: *The priest anointed her with oil.* [+obj+n] *They anointed him king.* (=put oil on him as a formal sign that he had become king) —~**ment** *n* [C;U]

a-nom-a-ly /əˈnɒməli/ -ˈnɑː- *n* *fml* **1** [C] a person, thing, or situation that is different from the usual or accepted type: *A cat with no tail is an anomaly.* | *a statistical anomaly* **2** [U] unusual irregularity: *The anomaly of his position is that he is the chairman of the committee but isn't allowed to vote.* —**-lous** *adj*: *in an anomalous position* —**-lously** *adv*

a-non¹ /əˈnɒn/ -ˈnɑːn/ *adv* old use or poet in a short time; soon —see also **ever and anon** (EVER)

anon² *abbrev. for*: (esp. at the end of a poem, letter, etc.) anonymous

an-o-nym-i-ty /ˌænəˈnɪmɪti/ *n* [U] the condition of being anonymous: *The defendants' anonymity was maintained until they were brought to court.*

a-non-y-mous /əˈnɒnɪməs/ -ˈnɑː- *adj* **1** (of a person) with name unknown: *The flowers were sent by an anonymous admirer.* | *The writer of this article wishes to remain anonymous.* **2** done or made by someone whose name is not known or stated: *an anonymous letter/phone call/bomb threat* | *The Disaster Fund received an anonymous donation of £5000.* —~**ly** *adv*

a-noph-e-les /əˈnɒfɪlɪz/ -ˈnɑː- *n* *tech* a type of MOSQUITO, esp. the sort that spreads MALARIA

an-o-rak /ˌænəræk/ *n* esp. BrE a short coat that has a HOOD (=a cover for the head) and keeps out wind and rain

an-o-rex-i-a /ˌænəˈreksɪə/ also **anorexia ner-vo-sa** /nɜːˈvəʊsə/ nɜːr- *n* [U] *tech* a serious illness in which there is loss of the desire for food and refusal to eat. The disease is suffered esp. by young women, who feel that they are unattractive because they are too fat, even when they are not. Some people believe that anorexia is partly caused by Western Society's belief that thin people are more attractive. —see also EATING DISORDER

an-o-rex-ic /ˌænəˈreksɪk/ *n, adj* (a person) suffering from anorexia

an-oth-er /əˈnʌðə/ *determiner, pron* **1** (being) one more of the same kind: *Have another drink and another of these cakes.* | *He finished his sausage and asked for another (one).* | *He poured out yet another drink.* (=he had already had several) **2** more; in addition; FURTHER² (2): *If you want a double room that will cost another £15.* | *In another two weeks we'll be on holiday.* **3** a different one; some other: *There must be another way of doing it.* | *She lost her book and borrowed one from another girl/from another of the girls.* | *I'm in a hurry now; I'll do it another time.* | *They asked the advice of an outsider so as to get another perspective on the problem.* | *one law for the rich and another for the poor* | *It tastes delicious, but whether it's good for you is another matter altogether!* (=it probably is not good for you) —see also ONE ANOTHER; see OTHER (USAGE)

A N Oth-er /eɪ en ˈʌðə/ BrE another person whose name is not known: *The classes will be taught by Joanne Brown, Robert Smith and A N Other.*

An-ou-ilh /ˌænuz-ɪː/ -ˈnuːjə/, **Jean** /ʒəʊn/ ʒɑːn/ (1910–87) a French writer of plays, including *Antigone* and *Becket*

An-sa-phone /ˌɑːnsəˈfəʊn/ -ˈæn- *n* *tdmk* a telephone answering machine: *Leave a message on the Ansaphone.*

An-schluss /ˌænsflʊs/ -ˈɑːn- *n* the taking over of Austria by Hitler's Germany in 1938

ANSI /ˈænsi/ American National Standards Institute; an organization which sets standards for the DESIGN and performance of esp. electronic and scientific equipment: *The network conforms to ANSI X3T9.5.*

an-swer¹ /ˈɑːnsə/ -ˈæn- *n* **1** [C (to)] what is said, written,

or done as a result of someone asking a question, sending a letter, etc.; reply: *a written/spoken answer* | *an official/unofficial answer* | *Although I wrote a month ago, I've had no answer (to my letter) yet.* | *We've made her an offer and we're now waiting for an answer.* | *I rang the doorbell but there was no answer.* | **In answer to** my shouts people ran to help. | *His only answer to their threat was to laugh.* | *a question-and-answer session with the leader of the Democrats* | *She gave/made no answer to his questions.* **2** [C] something which is discovered as a result esp. of thinking, calculating, etc.; SOLUTION: *The answer was 279.* | *the correct/wrong answer* | *There are no easy answers to the problem of unemployment.* | (fig.) *I'm getting too fat — the only answer is to eat less.* **3** [C] a piece of usu. written work to show knowledge or ability, e.g. in an examination: *Please write your answers on both sides of the paper.* **4** [S+to] a person or thing that is regarded as equal or similar to someone or something from another place; EQUIVALENT: *He's been described as Scotland's answer to Frank Sinatra.*

answer² *v* **1** [I;T] to give an answer (to); reply (to): *Why didn't you answer (me)?* | *The President answered the reporters' questions.* **2** [T+that;obj] to say as an answer: *I asked her the time, but she answered that she didn't know.* | *"I don't know," she answered.* **3** [I;T (with)] to do something as a reply (to): *She answered me with an angry look.* **4** [I;T] to act in reply to (a sign such as a telephone ringing or a knock on a door): *I knocked at the door but no one answered.* | *The phone's ringing — shall I answer it?* (=pick it up) | *a telephone answering machine* **5** [T] to give an explanation in reply to (a charge or argument): *How would you answer the criticism that your government has increased the level of taxation?* **6** [I+to;T] to be as described in; fit; CORRESPOND to: *He answers (to) the description given by the police, so he must be the criminal.* **7** [T] *fml* to be satisfactory for; fulfil: *This machinery will answer the company's needs very well.* | *The new government just didn't answer our hopes.*

▷ USAGE Compare **answer**, **reply**, **respond**, **retort**, and **rejoin**. **Answer** and **reply** are the usual verbs for answering questions; **respond** (*fml*) means the same thing but is less common: *"Are you coming?" "Yes," he answered/replied/responded.* With an object we use **answer**, **reply to**, **respond to**: *We must answer/reply to/respond to these questions as soon as possible.* **Retort** or **rejoin** (rare) mean "to answer showing disagreement" and are usually used when reporting the actual words spoken: *"Are you ready?" "Why should I be ready when you're not?" she retorted.*

answer (sbdy.) **back** *phr v* [I;T no pass.] *infml* (esp. of children talking to adults) to reply rudely (to): *Don't answer (your grandmother) back: it's not polite.*

answer for sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T (to)] **1** to accept responsibility for: *I will answer (to you) for his safety.* — compare ACCOUNT for (1,2) **2** to pay, suffer, or be punished as a result of: *You will have to answer for your violent behaviour in court.* | *It was his policies that got the country into this mess — he's got a lot to answer for!* (=he deserves the blame for a lot of things)

answer to sthg. *phr v* [T] **1** to act in reply to; obey: *The dog answers to his name.* **2** **answer to the name of** pomp or humor to be called: *They had an old servant, who answered to the name of Brown.*

answer-able /'ɑːnsəreɪbəl/ *adj* **1** [F (to, for)] having to explain or defend one's actions; responsible; ACCOUNTABLE: *I am answerable to the government for any decision I make.* **2** able to be answered —**bly** *adv* —**bility** /'ɑːnsəreɪbəlɪti/ *n* [U]

answering machine /'... .. / also **answerphone** *n* a machine attached to a telephone which records messages when one is unable to answer the telephone

answer-phone /'ɑːnsəfəʊn/ *n* an answering machine

ant /ænt/ *n* a small insect living on the ground in large social groups and known for hard work —see picture at INSECT

an-tag-o-nis-m /æn'tæɡənɪzəm/ *n* [C;U (to, towards)] (an example of) active opposition or hatred, esp. between people or groups: *religious/ethnic antagonism* | *their obvious antagonism towards this proposal*

an-tag-o-nist /æn'tæɡənɪst/ *n* a person who is opposed to another, esp. actively; opponent; ADVERSARY —compare

PROTAGONIST — ~ **ic** /æn,tæɡə'nɪstɪk/ *adj* [(to, towards)] — ~ **ically** /kli/ *adv*

an-tag-o-nize also **-nise** *BrE* /æn'tæɡənɪz/ *v* [T] to cause to become an enemy or opponent: *His rudeness only antagonizes people.* (=makes them dislike him)

Ant-arc-tic /æn'tɑːktɪk/ *n* [the] the very cold most southern part of the world —compare ARCTIC —**Antarctic** *adj*

Ant-arc-tic-a /æn'tɑːktɪkə/ *n* the large land mass (CONTINENT) surrounding the South Pole

Antarctic Cir-cle /... .. / *n* [the] an imaginary line drawn round the world at a certain distance from the most southern point (the South Pole), south of which there is no darkness for six months of each year and almost no light for the other six months —compare ARCTIC CIRCLE, and see picture at GLOBE

an-te¹ /'ænti/ *n* **1** [C usu. sing.] an amount that is risked in the card game of POKER; a STAKE¹ (4): *a £2 ante* **2** [the+S] *infml*, esp. *AmE* an amount paid; price: *an attempt to up the ante*

ante² *v*

ante up (sthg.) *phr v* -**ted** or -**teed**, -**teing** [I;T] *AmE infml* to pay (an amount of money), esp. in a game of chance; to provide (one's share of the money)

ante- see WORD FORMATION

ant-eat-er /'ænt,ɪ:tə/ *n* an animal that eats ants, esp. one with a long sticky tongue

an-te-ced-ent¹ /,æntɪ'sɪdənt/ *n* **1** *fml* an event that comes before or causes another event **2** *tech* (in grammar) the word, phrase, or sentence that is represented by another word such as a PRONOUN. In the sentence "I saw John and spoke to him", *John* is the antecedent of *him*.

antecedent² *adj* [(to)] *fml* coming or being before

an-te-ced-ents /,æntɪ'sɪdənts/ *n* [P] *fml* past family or past history: *a person of unknown antecedents*

an-te-cham-ber /'æntɪ,tʃeɪmbə/ also **anteroom**— *n* a small room leading to a larger one

an-te-date /'æntɪdeɪt, 'æntɪ'deɪt/ *v* [T] **1** to be earlier in history than: *This old carriage antedates the invention of the car.* **2** to write a date earlier than the date of writing on (a letter, cheque, etc.) —compare POSTDATE, BACKDATE

an-te-di-lu-vi-an /,æntɪdɪ'lʊviən/ *adj* *humor* very old-fashioned; OUTDATED: *antediluvian ideas about marriage*

an-te-lope /'æntɪləʊp/ *n* -**lopes** or -**lope** a graceful grass-eating animal that has horns and is able to run very fast —see picture at DEER

ante me-rid-i-em /,æntɪ mə'rɪdiəm, -diəm/ *adv fml* rare for AM

an-te-na-tal /,æntɪ'neɪtl/ *BrE* || **prenatal** *AmE*— *adj tech* of or for the time before a birth: *antenatal care* | *An antenatal clinic is a place where women who are expecting babies go for medical examinations and exercises.* —compare POSTNATAL

an-ten-na /æn'tenə/ *n* **1** (*pl.* -**nae** /ni:/) a long thin sensitive hairlike organ, usu. growing in pairs, on the heads of some insects and CRUSTACEANS (=animals that live in shells), and used to feel with; FEELER —see picture at INSECT **2** (*pl.* -**nas**) esp. *AmE* for AERIAL: *a television antenna* —see picture at HOUSE

an-ter-i-or /æn'tɪəriə/ *adj* [no comp.] **1** [F+to] *fml* earlier (than); before; PRIOR **2** [A] (in BIOLOGY) nearer the front —opposite **posterior**

an-te-room /'æntɪrʊm, -ru:m/ *n* **1** an ANTECHAMBER **2** a WAITING ROOM

an-them /'ænθəm/ *n* **1** a religious song to be sung in a church, esp. by a CHOIR, often with words taken from the Bible **2** any ceremonial song of praise —see also NATIONAL ANTHEM

an-ther /'ænθə/ *n* the part of a male flower which contains POLLEN (=the substance that makes the female flower bear fruit or seeds) —see picture at FLOWER

ant-hill /'ænt,hɪl/ *n* a raised mass of earth, little pieces of wood, etc., in which ants live

an-thol-o-gy /æn'θɒlədʒi/ *n* a collection of poems or other writings, often on the same subject, that have been chosen from different books or writers —compare OMNIBUS (1) —**gist** *n*

An-tho-ny /'æntəni/, **Su-san** /'su:zən/ **B.** (1820–1906) an American woman who fought to get the vote for women. Her picture is on the dollar coin.

an-thra-cite /'ænθrəsait/ *n* [U] a very hard kind of coal that burns slowly and without smoke

an-thrax /'ænθræks/ *n* [U] a serious disease which attacks cattle, sheep, and sometimes humans

an-thro-po-cen-tric /,ænθrəpəʊ'sentrɪk-||-pə'sen-/ *adj fml* regarding human existence as the most important and central fact in the world — **ally** /kli/ *adv*

an-thro-poid /'ænθrəpɔɪd/ *adj* **1** [A] (of an animal) like a person: *anthropoid apes such as the chimpanzee and the gorilla* **2** *infml derog* (of a person) like a monkey

an-thro-pol-o-gy /,ænθrə'pɒlədʒi||-'pɑ:z-/ *n* [U] the scientific study of the human race, including its different types and its beliefs, social habits and organization, etc. — compare ETHNOLOGY, SOCIOLOGY — **gist** *n* — **gical** /,ænθrəpə'lbɔ:ʒɪkəl-||-'lɑ:z-/ *adj* — **gically** /kli/ *adv*

an-thro-po-mor-phic /,ænθrəpə'mɔ:fɪk-||-'ɔ:r-/ *adj fml* (of a god or animal) having the form or qualities of a person

an-thro-po-mor-phism /,ænθrəpə'mɔ:fɪzəm||-'ɔ:r-/ *n* [U] *fml* or *tech* the idea that gods or animals have human forms or qualities

anti- see WORD FORMATION

an-ti-air-craft /,ænti'eəkra:ft||-'eəkræft/ *adj* [A] (esp. of gunfire) directed against enemy aircraft: *antiaircraft missiles*

An-tibes /ɒn'tɪb|'ɑ:n-/ a fashionable holiday RESORT on the French Riviera

an-ti-bi-ot-ic /,æntɪbaɪ'ɒtɪk-||-'ɑ:z-/ *n* a medical substance, such as PENICILLIN, that is produced by living things and is able to destroy or stop the growth of harmful bacteria that have entered the body: *a course of antibiotics to clear an infection* — **antibiotic** *adj*

an-ti-bod-y /'æntɪ,bɒdi||-'bɑ:z-/ *n* a substance produced in the body which fights against disease

An-ti-christ /'æntɪ,kraɪst/ [*the*] in the Christian religion, a great enemy of Christ who represents the power of evil and is expected to appear just before the end of the world

an-tic-i-pate /æn'tɪsɪpeɪt/ *v* [T] **1** to think likely to happen; expect: *Are you anticipating any trouble when the factory opens again?* [+*v-ing/that*] *We anticipate meeting/that we will meet a certain amount of resistance to our plan.* | *an anticipated growth rate of 4.2%* **2** to guess or imagine in advance (what will happen) and take the necessary action in order to be ready: *I tried to anticipate the kind of questions they were likely to ask me at the interview.* [+*wh-*] *In business, you've got to anticipate how your competitors will act.* [+*that*] *We anticipated that the enemy would try to cross the river so we destroyed the bridge.* **3** to do something before (someone else): *We anticipated our competitors by getting our book into the shops first.* **4** *fml* to consider, mention, or make use of before the proper time: *It is unwise to anticipate your earnings by spending a lot of money.* — **patory** /æn,tɪsɪ'peɪtəri||æn'tɪsəpətɔ:ri/ *adj* ▷ USAGE Although **anticipate** is commonly used to mean “expect”, this is thought by some teachers to be incorrect. ◁

an-tic-i-pa-tion /æn,tɪsɪ'peɪʃən/ *n* [U] (of) the act of anticipating: *I had taken my coat and umbrella in anticipation of rain.* | *The crowd waited outside the theatre in eager anticipation.*

an-ti-cler-i-cal /,æntɪ'klerɪkəl-||-||-/ *adj* opposed to the influence of priests in public and political life — **ism** *n* [U]

an-ti-cli-max /,æntɪ'klaɪmæks/ *n* **1** something unexciting, ordinary, or disappointing coming after something important or exciting: *To be back in the office after climbing mountains for a week was a bit of an anticlimax.* **2** a sudden often funny change from something noble, serious, exciting, etc., to something foolish, unimportant, or uninteresting, esp. in a speech or piece of formal writing — see also CLIMAX

an-ti-clock-wise /,æntɪ'klɒkwaɪz||-'klɑ:k-/ *BrE* || **counterclockwise** *AmE* — *adj, adv* in the opposite direction to the movement of the hands of a clock: *To remove the lid, turn it anticlockwise.* — opposite **clockwise**

Anti-Corn Law League /, . . . / [*the*] a group of people, led by Richard Cobden and John Bright, who protested against the corn laws in Britain in the 1840s

an-tics /'æntɪks/ *n* [P] strange or foolish behaviour that is usu. regarded with disapproval: *The public eventually grew tired of his antics on the tennis court.*

an-ti-cy-clone /,æntɪ'saɪkləʊn/ *n* *tech* a mass of air that is heavy, causing calm weather, either hot or cold, in the area over which it moves — see also CYCLONE

an-ti-de-pres-sant /,æntɪdɪ'presənt/ *n* a type of drug used in the treatment of DEPRESSION

an-ti-dote /'æntɪdəʊt/ *n* [(to)] a substance that stops a poison working inside a person or prevents the bad effects of a disease: *a dangerous poison for which there is no known antidote* | (fig.) *Do you think there is any antidote to the nation's economic troubles?*

an-ti-freeze /'æntɪfri:z/ *n* [U] a chemical substance put in water to stop it from freezing in very cold weather, used esp. in car engines

an-ti-gen /'æntɪdʒən/ *n* a harmful substance such as a bacterium or VIRUS which causes the body to produce antibodies (ANTIBODY) to fight it

An-tig-o-ne /æn'tɪɡəni/ in CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY, a daughter of Oedipus, who, torn between her religious and legal duties, disobeyed the king and then killed herself. Her story is told by Sophocles in his play *Antigone*.

An-ti-gua /æn'tɪ:gə/ an island in the Caribbean which is a centre of business and COMMUNICATIONS for the area — **Antiguan** *adj, n*

an-ti-her-o /'æntɪ,hɪərəʊ/ *n* -oes the main character in a work of literature, who is represented as being no braver, stronger, or cleverer than ordinary people — compare HERO

an-ti-his-ta-mine /,æntɪ'hɪstəmi:n, -mɪn/ *n* [C;U] a chemical substance that is used in the treatment of colds and allergies (ALLERGY)

an-ti-knock /,æntɪ'nɒk||-'nɑ:k/ *n* [U] a chemical substance that is added to petrol to make car engines run smoothly, without knocking (KNOCK¹ (4))

an-ti-log-a-rith-m /,æntɪ'lɒɡərɪðəm||-'lɑ:z-, -'lɔ:z-/ also **an-ti-log** /'æntɪlɒɡ||-'lɑ:g, -lɔ:g/- *n* *infml* the number whose LOGARITHM is a stated number: *The antilogarithm of 2 is 100 because 10² = 100.*

an-ti-ma-cas-sar /,æntɪmə'kæsəʃ/ *n* a piece of cloth put on the back of a chair, as a decoration and to protect it from marks left by hair oil. Antimacassars were widely used in the past, but are now considered old-fashioned.

an-ti-mat-ter /'æntɪmətəʃ/ *n* [U] matter which is made up of antiparticles

an-ti-nu-cle-ar /,æntɪ'nju:kliəʃ-||-'nu:z-/ *adj* opposing the use of atomic power (for producing electricity) and the production and use of atomic weapons: *an antinuclear demonstration* | *the antinuclear movement*

an-ti-par-ti-cle /'æntɪ,pɑ:tɪkəl||-'pɑ:r-/ *n* an ELEMENTARY PARTICLE (=very small unit of matter in an atom) that carries the opposite electrical charge of the matter usu. found in atoms. Antiparticles are very rare in the known parts of the universe but they can be made in special scientific tests.

an-ti-pas-to /'æntɪpæstəʊ||,æntɪ'pɑ:z-/ *n* -tos or -ti /-tɪz/ *It* a dish of food, usu. cold food, eaten before the main dish of a meal

an-ti-pa-thet-ic /,æntɪpə'θetɪk-||-/ *adj* [(to)] feeling, causing, or showing antipathy: *He has always been strongly antipathetic to the views of the women's movement.* — **ally** /kli/ *adv*

an-tip-a-thy /æn'tɪpəθi/ *n* [C;U] (to, towards) (an example of) a fixed and strong dislike or opposition; AVERSION: *the President's well-known antipathy towards trade unions*

an-ti-per-son-nel /,æntɪpɜ:sə'nel||-'zɪr-/ *adj* *euph* (of bombs) intended to hurt people, not destroy property, by exploding into small pieces

an-ti-per-spi-rant /,æntɪ'pɜ:spɪrənt||-'pɜ:r-/ *n* a chemical substance that helps to stop the skin from sweating (SWEAT) — compare DEODORANT

An-tip-o-des /æn'tɪpədɪz/ *n* [*the*+P] *lit* or *humor* Australia and New Zealand — **Antipodean** /æn'tɪpə'diən/ *adj*

an-ti-quar-i-an¹ /,æntɪ'kwɛəriən-||-/ also **an-ti-qua-ry** /'æntɪ'kwəri||-'kwəri/- *n* a person who studies, collects, or sells antiquities or antiques

antiquarian² *adj* of or concerning antiquities or antiques or people who study, collect, or sell such things: *an antiquarian bookseller*

an-ti-quat-ed /'æntɪkwetɪd/ *adj* old and not suited to modern needs or conditions; old-fashioned, ~~OUTDATED~~; ~~antiquated laws/machinery~~

an-tique¹ /'æn'tɪk/ *adj* 1 made in an earlier period and usu. valuable: *an antique vase* 2 [A] *fml* of or connected with ancient times, esp. ancient Rome or Greece

antique² *n* a piece of furniture, decorative object, jewellery, etc., that was made in an earlier period and that is rare or valuable: *The palace is full of priceless antiques.* | *an antique dealer*

an-tiq-ui-ty /'æntɪkwɪti/ *n* 1 [U] the state of being very old; great age: *a building of great antiquity* 2 [C;U] (a building, work of art, etc., remaining from) ancient times, esp. before the Middle Ages: *to photograph the antiquities in the museum* | *one of the great writers of antiquity*

an-tir-rhi-num /,æntɪ'raɪnəm/ *n* a SNAPDRAGON

an-ti-Sem-i-tis-m /,æntɪ'semɪtɪzəm/ *n* [U] hatred of Jews —see also SEMITIC —**Semitic** /sɪ'mɪtɪk/ *adj* —**Semite** /'sɪmaɪt/ *n*

an-ti-sep-tic /,æntɪ'septɪk/ *n* a chemical substance that prevents disease in a wound, esp. by killing bacteria —**antiseptic** *adj*

an-ti-so-cial /,æntɪ'səʊʃəl/ *adj* 1 causing harm to the way in which people live together peacefully, esp. by showing no concern for other people: *Playing music so loud that it annoys everyone else in the street is antisocial.* | *antisocial behaviour* 2 not liking to mix with other people; UNSOCIABLE: *Jane's very friendly, but her husband's rather antisocial.* 3 damaging to social life; UNSOCIAL: *antisocial work hours*

an-tith-e-sis /'æn'tɪθɪsɪs/ *n* [(the) S (of, to)] *fml* the direct opposite: *The antithesis of death is life.* | *Their political views are the complete antithesis of mine.*

an-ti-thet-i-cal /,æntɪ'thetɪkəl/ also **an-ti-thet-ic** /-tɪk/ *adj* [(to)] being an antithesis; directly and completely opposed: *Those two ideas are absolutely antithetical (to each other).* —**ically** /kli/ *adv*

an-ti-trust law /,æntɪ'trʌst,lɔː/ *n* [C;U] *tech* any law in the US directed against TRUSTS or business monopolies (MONOPOLY) because of their bad effect on trade —compare MONOPOLIES AND MERGERS COMMISSION

ant-ler /'æntlə/ *n* either of the pair of branched horns of a STAG (=a male deer) —see picture at DEER

Antoinette, Marie see MARIE ANTOINETTE

An-to-ny /'æntəni/, **Mark** (about 83–30 BC) a Roman politician and soldier who supported Julius Caesar and after his death became one of the rulers of the Roman Empire. He was in love with Cleopatra, and after they were defeated in battle they both killed themselves. Mark Antony appears in Shakespeare's play *Antony and Cleopatra*, and also *Julius Caesar*, in which he makes a famous speech beginning with the words "Friends, Romans, Countrymen, lend me your ears..." —see also CLEOPATRA and see colour picture on page 1146

Antony and Cle-o-pat-ra /,... .. / the title of a play by William Shakespeare, about the love between Mark Antony, and the queen of Egypt

an-to-nym /'æntənɪm/ *n* a word that is opposite in meaning to another word in the same language: "*Pain*" is the *antonym* of "*pleasure*". —compare SYNONYM

An-trim /'æntɪrɪm/ a former COUNTY in Northern Ireland, now a local government DISTRICT, whose main town was Belfast

An-twerp /'æntwɜːp/ a city and port in N Belgium

a-nus /'eɪnəs/ *n med* the hole through which solid food waste leaves the bowels —compare COLON¹, RECTUM

an-vil /'ænvɪl/ *n* a heavy iron block on which metals are shaped by hammering

anx-i-e-ty /æŋ'zɪəti/ *n* 1 [C;U (for, about)] an uncomfortable feeling in the mind usu. caused by the fear or expectation that something bad will happen: *There's a lot of anxiety among the staff about possible job losses.* | *We waited with great anxiety for more news about the accident.* | *Her statement was an attempt to allay (=lessen) public anxieties about the economic situation.* 2 [C (to)] a cause of anxiety: *Her sick child is a great anxiety to her.* 3 [U] a feeling of worried eagerness: [+to-v] *his obvious anxiety to please the boss*

anx-ious /'æŋkʃəs/ *adj* 1 [(for, about)] feeling anxiety; worried and frightened: *I was terribly anxious about the children when they didn't come home from school.* | *anxious for their safety* | *anxious inquiries from relatives of those on board the crashed plane* 2 causing anxiety; worrying: *an anxious wait for the results of our exams* | *It was an anxious time for us.* 3 [F+to-v/that] having a strong wish mixed with a feeling of anxiety; eager: *The government is anxious to reassure everyone that the situation is under control.* | *We were anxious that she should know the truth.* | *He was anxious for them to go.* —see NERVOUS (USAGE) —**ly** *adv*: *She waited anxiously by the phone.*

an-y¹ /'eni/ *determiner, pron* 1 every; (of more than two), no matter which: *They're all free — take any (of them) you like.* | *Any child would know that.* | *You can use this printer with any computer/with any of our computers.* | *They haven't arrived yet but we're expecting them at any moment.* (=soon) | *The manufacturers will pay the cost of any repairs in the first 12 months.* 2 [usu. in questions or negatives] a some; even the smallest number or amount: *Have you got any money?* | *I need some nails — have you got any?* | *He hasn't got any imagination.* | *The soldiers fired at the crowd without any reason.* | *I admire her for her determination, but not for any other reason.* | *Are there any letters for me?* | *I never seem to get any.* (Compare *There are some (letters) for you.*) | *Come and see me if you have any time.* | *It isn't any use looking for her; she's already gone home.* | *Very few people, if any, still support this idea.* (=there may be no one who supports it) **b** (esp. with **just**) of an ordinary kind: *You can't just wear any (old) clothes if you're going there — you have to dress very smartly.* 3 as much as possible; all: *They will need any help they can get.* 4 in 'any case: a also at 'any rate— no matter what may happen: *We may miss the next bus, but in any case we'll be there before midday.* **b** besides; also: *I don't want to go out tonight, and in any case we can't afford it.* —see also **any amount of** (AMOUNT¹); see MORE (USAGE), SOME (USAGE)

any² *adv* [usu. in questions or negatives] in the least; at all: *I can't stay any longer.* | *I asked her to polish the floor but it doesn't look any different to me.* | (AmE *infml*) *We tried turning off the tap, but that didn't help any.*

an-y-bod-y /'eni,bɒdi, 'enɪbədi/ *pron* any person or all people; anyone —see EVERYONE (USAGE), SOMETHING (USAGE)

an-y-how /'enihaʊ/ *adv infml* 1 carelessly; without regular order: *Her clothes were thrown down just anyhow.* 2 in spite of that; anyway: *He told me not to buy it, but I bought it anyhow.* 3 (used when going on with a story, changing a subject in conversation, etc.) anyway: "Well, anyhow, I rang the bell ..." —see ANYWAY (USAGE)

an-y-one /'eniwʌn/ also **anybody**— *pron* 1 any person, no matter who; all people: *Anyone can cook — it's easy.* | *He's cleverer than anyone I know.* | *Anyone else would have been too embarrassed, but he just walked up and asked her for her autograph.* 2 [usu. in questions or negatives] any person; some person: *Is anyone listening?* | *There wasn't anyone on the information desk.* | *I can't find my pen — has anyone seen it?* | *If anyone finds my pen I hope they/he will tell me.* | *John can do it, if anyone can.* —see EVERYONE (USAGE), SOME (USAGE)

an-y-place /'enɪpleɪs/ *adv AmE* for ANYWHERE

Any Questions /,... .. / a British radio programme in which members of the public put questions about current affairs to a group of politicians or public figures

an-y-thing /'eniθɪŋ/ *pron* 1 any object, act, event, etc., no matter what: *He will do anything for a quiet life.* | *It's a great pity, but I can't do anything about it.* (=I can't change the situation) | *Anything will do to keep the door open.* | *If you believe that, you'll believe anything!* 2 [usu. in questions or negatives] any one thing; something: *Is there anything in that box?* | *You can't believe anything she says.* | *Has anything interesting happened?* | *Don't do anything stupid* | *Did you notice anything unusual?* | *She doesn't know anything about current affairs.* | *Do you want anything else?* (=any other thing) | *Is there anything to eat?* | *We're not doing anything much at the weekend.* (=we have no particular plans) 3 **anything** but not at all; far from: *That old bridge is anything but safe.* 4 **anything like** at all like; at all: *It isn't anything like as cold as it was yesterday.* 5 **as easy/fast/strong, etc., as anything infml** very easy/fast/strong, etc.: *It's as dark as anything outside.* 6 **or anything** (used when

there are other possibilities): *If you want to call me or anything, I'll be here all day.* **7 anything you say may be taken down and used in evidence against you** a phrase which is similar to the one used by the British police when charging someone with a crime. Although these are not the exact words used by the police, they are the words that most people believe are used by the police, and they are often used humorously. —see also **LIKE²** (5), see **SOME** (USAGE), **SOMETHING** (USAGE)

an-y-way /'eniweɪ/ *adv* *infml* **1** in spite of everything; in any case; anyhow: *It doesn't make much difference because we're going to be late anyway.* **2** (used when going on with a story, changing a subject in conversation, etc.): *"Well anyway, I rang the bell ..."*

▷ **USAGE** In informal spoken English **anyway** (or **anyhow**) is used **1** to show that the speaker wants to return to the main topic: *That's an interesting comment. But anyway, as I was saying ...*, or **2** to finish one topic and continue with another: *Anyway, shall we go on to the next point now?*

an-y-where /'eniweə/ || also **anyplace** *AmE* *adv* **1** in, at, or to any place at all: *Sit anywhere you like.* | *I looked all over for that book but I couldn't find it anywhere.* | *the best curry anywhere in London* **2** [*usu. in questions or negatives*] (in, at, or to) any place; some place: *Did you go anywhere yesterday?* | *It must be in the bathroom — it can't be anywhere else.* (=in any other place) | *Do they need anywhere to stay?* | *Are you going anywhere nice for your holidays?* | (fig.) *This argument isn't getting us anywhere.* (=isn't doing any good) **3** any number or amount: *anywhere from 40 to 60 students* | *anywhere between 40 and 60 students* **4 anywhere near** *infml* at all near or nearly: *She isn't anywhere near as clever as her sister.* | *Are we anywhere near finishing?* **5 or anywhere** or in/at/to any other place: *Would you like to go to the beach or anywhere?* —see **SOME** (USAGE), **SOMETHING** (USAGE)

An-zac /'ænzæk/ *n* a soldier from Australia or New Zealand, esp. in the First World War

Anzac Day /'.. / (in Australia and New Zealand) April 25th each year, remembered as the date of the landing at Gallipoli in 1915

AOB /,eɪ əʊ 'bi:/ *BrE* any other business; anything else that needs to be discussed at a meeting, that is not mentioned on the list of things to be discussed

A-OK A-Okay /,eɪ əʊ 'keɪ/ *adj* *AmE* *infml* very good: *You did an A-O.K. job on this project.*

AONB /,eɪ əʊ en 'bi:/ *n* *BrE* Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty; an area which should be kept as it is, and not used for building on

a-or-ta /eɪ 'ɔ:tə/ || -'ɔ:r-/ *n* the largest ARTERY (=tube for carrying blood) in the body, taking blood from the heart

AP /,eɪ 'pi:/ *n* Associated Press; a company that gathers news stories, mostly in the US, and sells them to newspapers, television stations, etc.

a-pace /ə'peɪs/ *adv* *lit* or *old use* quickly

A-pa-che /ə'pætʃi/ *n* [C; *the+P*] (a member of) a Native American people of the Western US —see also **NATIVE AMERICAN** (CULTURAL NOTE)

a-part /ə'pɑ:t/ || -ɑ:rt/ *adv* **1** separated by a distance: *The boxers stood apart, waiting for the signal to start fighting.* | *We planted the trees wide apart.* | *He and his wife are living apart.* [after *n*] *The two villages are three miles apart.* | (fig.) *The two sides in the dispute are still a long way apart and it is unlikely that any agreement will be reached.* **2** in or into two or more separate parts: *He took the clock apart to repair it.* | *It just came apart in my hands.* **3** [after *n*] without considering; **ASIDE**: **Joking apart** (=speaking seriously), *we really must do something about that hole.* **4 apart from**: **a** without considering; except for: *a good piece of work, apart from a few slight faults* **b** as well as: *Apart from being too large, it just doesn't suit me.* **5 tell/know apart** to be able to see the difference between: *I can't tell the twins apart.* —see also **poles apart** (POLE³), **worlds apart** (WORLD)

a-part-heid /ə'pɑ:theit, -teɪt, -taɪt, -taɪd/ || -ɑ:r-/ *n* [U] **1** (in South Africa) the system established by the government of keeping different races separate, esp. so as to give advantage to white people. Many people all over the world believe very strongly that apartheid is wrong. The South African government is now removing the apartheid laws and ending this system. —compare **SEGREGATION** **2** any

system of separating groups of people, esp. to give advantage to one group: *cultural apartheid*

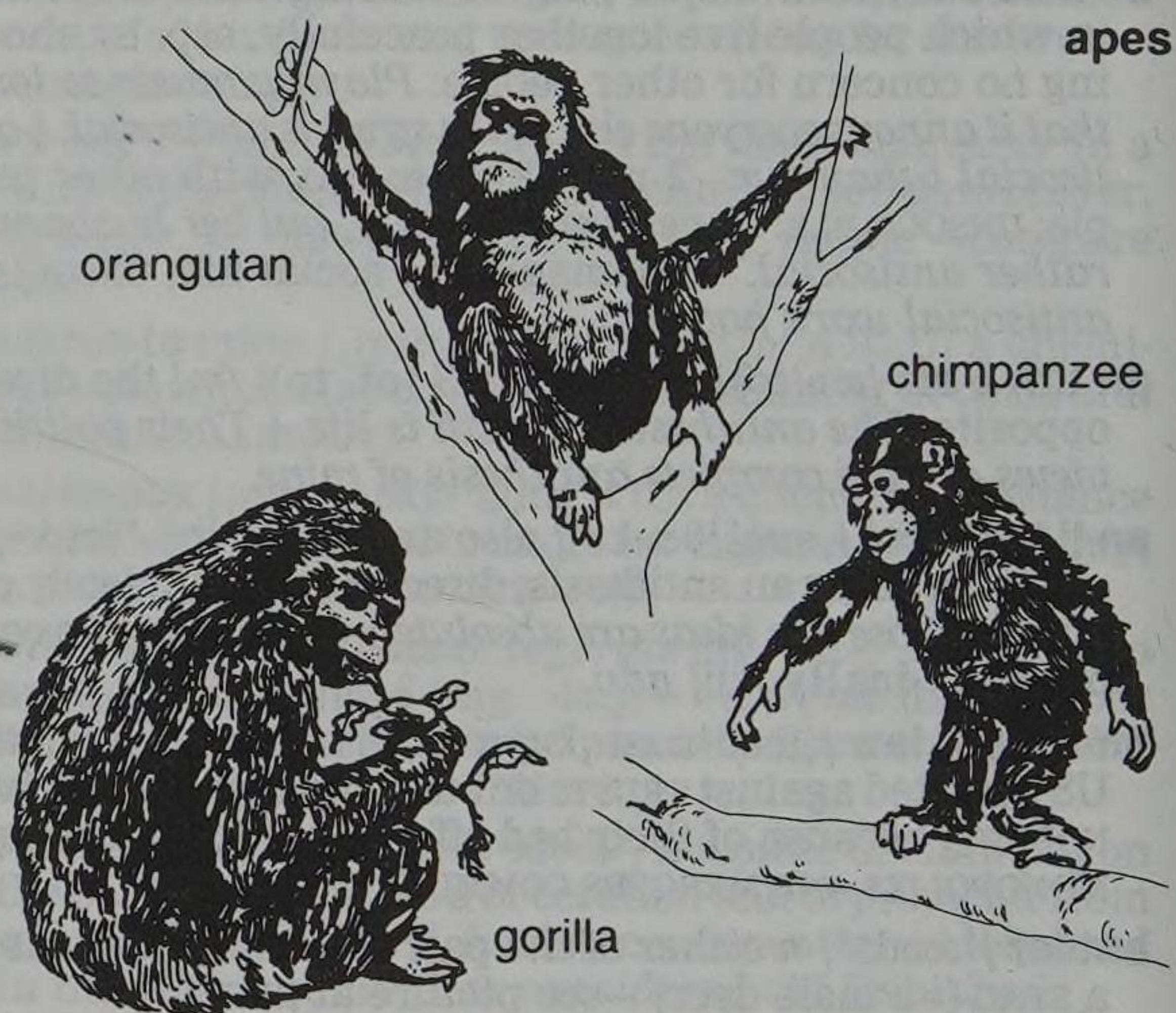
a-part-ment /ə'pɑ:tment/ || -ɑ:r-/ *n* **1** *AmE* || also **flat** *BrE* — a set of rooms in a building, esp. on one floor, including a kitchen and a bathroom —see **HOUSE** (USAGE) **2** [often *pl.*] a room, esp. a large or splendid one: *the Royal Apartments*

apartment building /'.. / || also **apartment house** /'.. / — *n* *AmE* a large building containing many apartments —see colour picture on page 161

ap-a-thet-ic /,æpə'thetɪk/ *adj* lacking interest, strong feelings, or a desire to take action: *A few of the students got involved in the campaign but most of them were fairly apathetic.* — **~ally** /kli/ *adv*

ap-a-thy /'æpəθi/ *n* [U] lack of interest or strong feelings about something or everything; unwillingness or inability to act or take an active interest: *He was sunk in apathy after his failure.* | *We lost the election because of the apathy of our supporters.*

APB /,eɪ pi: 'bi:/ *n* *AmE* all points bulletin; a statement broadcast to police and others to call their attention to a particular person: *Police have issued an APB about the suspect who is believed to be hiding in the area.*



ape¹ /eɪp/ *n* a large monkey without a tail or with a very short tail, such as a GORILLA or CHIMPANZEE

ape² *v* [T] *derog* to copy (a person or a person's behaviour, manners, speech, etc.), in a stupid or unsuccessful way; **IMITATE**

ape³ *adj* [F] *AmE* *sl* uncontrollably angry: *The boss went ape when he saw the sales report.*

Ap-en-nines /'æpənnaɪnz/ the range of mountains which runs the whole length of Italy

a-per-i-tif /ə'perɪ'tɪf/ *n* a small alcoholic drink drunk before a meal. People *usu.* only drink aperitifs before special meals, on social occasions.

ap-er-ture /'æpətʃər/ || 'æpərtʃʊər/ *n* a hole, crack, or other narrow opening, esp. one that admits light into a camera

ape-shit /'eɪpʃɪt/ *adj* *AmE* *taboo* *sl* uncontrollably angry: *He went apeshit when we told him about the mistake.*

a-pex /'eɪpeks/ *n* **apexes** or **apices** /'eɪpəsɪz/ *fml* or *tech* the top or highest point of anything: *the apex of a triangle* | (fig.) *the apex of his career*

APEX, **Apex** /'eɪpeks/ advance purchase excursion; a system of air travel ticket prices that are cheaper than the usual prices, but only available under certain conditions: *a New York-Paris APEX fare of \$650*

a-phid /'eɪfɪd, 'æfɪd/ || also **a-phis** /'eɪfɪs, 'æfɪs/ — *n* any of various small insects (such as the GREENFLY) that live on the juices of plants; aphids are a PEST to farmers and gardeners, as they can damage plants

aph-o-ris-m /'æfərɪzəm/ *n* a true or wise saying or principle expressed in a few words; **MAXIM** — **aphoristic** /'æfə'rɪstɪk/ *adj*

aph-ro-dis-i-ac /'æfrə'dɪziæk/ *n, adj* (a medicine, drug, etc.) causing sexual excitement

Aph-ro-di-te /'æfrə'daɪti/ (in CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY) the Greek goddess of love and beauty (Roman name Venus)

- a-pi-a-ry** /'eɪpiəri||'eɪpiəri/ *n* a place where bees are kept
- a-piece** /ə'pi:s/ *adv* to, for, or from each person or thing; each: *The apples cost ten pence apiece.* | *We gave them three tickets apiece.*
- a-plen-ty** /ə'plenti/ *adj* [after *n*] *old use or lit* in great quantity; in plentiful supply: *They had money aplenty.*
- a-plomb** /ə'plɒm||ə'plɑ:m/ *n* [U] the power to remain calm and steady in manner and behaviour in difficult situations; SELF-POSSESSION; COMPOSURE: *She handled their hostile questioning with great aplomb.*
- APO** /,eɪ pi: 'əʊ/ *n* *AmE* Army Post Office; used in addresses of soldiers serving on land outside the US — compare FPO
- a-poc-a-lypse** /ə'pɒkəlips||ə'paɪ-/ *n* a description about the future, esp. about terrible things that will happen when the world ends: *To its opponents, genetic engineering is a test-tube apocalypse.*
- a-poc-a-lyp-tic** /ə'pɒkə'liptɪk||ə'paɪ-/ *adj* **1** telling of great misfortunes in the future: *apocalyptic warnings about the coming of wars and hunger* **2** of or like the end of the world: *apocalyptic scenes of death and destruction*
- a-poc-ry-phal** /ə'pɒkrɪfəl||ə'paɪ-/ *adj* (esp. of a story concerning someone well-known or important) widely believed, but probably untrue: *an apocryphal story about the Prime Minister*
- ap-o-gee** /'æpədʒi:/ *n* **1** *tech* the point where the path of an object through space is farthest from the Earth — compare PERIGEE **2** *fml* the highest point of power or success: *the apogee of his political career*
- a-po-lit-i-cal** /,eɪpə'liɪtɪkəl/ *adj* having no connection with politics or no interest in politics
- A-pol-lo** /ə'pɒləʊ||ə'paɪ-/ **1** (in CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY) the Greek and Roman god of the sun, medicine, poetry, music and PROPHECY **2** a young man of great physical beauty
- Apollo Pro-gram** /'ɒləʊ 'prɒɡræm/ [the] the US space programme to put a man on the moon. It ended in 1974 after six successful moon landings — see also Neil ARMSTRONG
- a-pol-o-get-ic** /ə'pɒlə'dʒetɪk||ə'paɪ-/ *adj* showing or saying that one is sorry for some fault or wrong: *She was most apologetic when she heard I had been kept waiting.* | *an apologetic letter* — ~ **ally** /kli/ *adv*
- a-pol-o-get-ics** /ə'pɒlə'dʒetɪks||ə'paɪ-/ *n* [P;U] *fml* the art or skill of giving arguments in defence of something, esp. of a religious belief — **apologetic** *adj* [A]
- ap-o-lo-gi-a** /,æpə'ləʊdʒiə, -dʒə/ *n* [(for, of)] *fml* a formal defence or explanation, esp. of a belief
- a-pol-o-gist** /ə'pɒlədʒɪst||ə'paɪ-/ *n* [(for)] *fml* a person who strongly supports a particular belief and can give arguments in defence of it: *one of the leading apologists for the government's economic strategy*
- a-pol-o-gize** also **-gise** *BrE* /ə'pɒlədʒaɪz||ə'paɪ-/ *v* [I (to, for)] to say one is sorry, e.g. for having done something wrong, or for causing pain or trouble: *I apologized (to her) for stepping on her foot.* | *I must apologize for not replying sooner to your letter.* | *She kept us waiting for a whole hour and she didn't even apologize!*
- a-pol-o-gy** /ə'pɒlədʒi||ə'paɪ-/ *n* **1** [(for)] a statement expressing that one is sorry for having done something wrong, for causing pain or trouble, etc.: *I make no apology for what I said — it was a fair comment.* | *Please accept our apologies for any inconvenience we have caused.* | *Your allegations are completely untrue, and I demand an immediate apology.* | *I'm afraid I was rather bad-tempered yesterday — I think I owe you an apology.* | *The Finance Director sends her apologies and is unable to attend the meeting* **2** [(for)] *lit* a defence or explanation of a belief, idea, etc.: *Shelley's "Apology for Poetry"* **3** *infml*, often *humor* a very bad example of something
- ap-o-plec-tic** /,æpə'plektɪk/ *adj* **1** violently excited and angry, and often having a red face: *The old general was apoplectic with rage.* **2** having or concerning apoplexy — ~ **ally** /kli/ *adv*
- ap-o-plex-y** /'æpəpleksi/ *n* [U] the sudden loss of the ability to move, feel, think, etc., usu. caused by too much blood in the brain or by the bursting of one of the BLOOD VESSELS there; STROKE² (2)
- a-pos-ta-sy** /ə'pɒstəsi||ə'paɪ-/ *n* [U] *fml* leaving or giving up of one's religious faith, political party, beliefs, etc.
- a-pos-tate** /ə'pɒstet, -stɪt||ə'paɪ-/ *n* a person guilty of apostasy
- a pos-ter-i-o-ri** /,eɪ pɒsteri'ɔɪrɪ, ,ɑ: pɒsteri'ɔɪrɪ||,ɑ: pəʊstəri'əʊrɪ, ,eɪ paɪ-/ *adj, adv* *Lat* (of an argument) using actual facts or results to form a judgment about cause (as in the statement *The streets are wet so it must have rained.*) — compare A PRIORI
- a-pos-tle** /ə'pɒsəl||ə'paɪ-/ *n* **1** any of the 12 followers of Christ chosen by him to spread his message to the world **2** [(of)] a leader of a new political or other belief or idea: *one of the apostles of non-violent protest*
- Apostles' Creed** /'ɒstəls 'kri:deɪ/ [the] a statement of religious belief in the Christian religion, beginning "I believe in God the Father Almighty..."
- ap-o-stolic** /,æpə'stɒlɪk||-'stɑ:/ *adj* **1** of or concerning one of Christ's 12 apostles **2** of or concerning the POPE (the leader of the Roman Catholic Church); PAPAL
- a-pos-tro-phe** /ə'pɒstrəfi||ə'paɪ-/ *n* the sign (') used in writing a to show that one or more letters or numbers have been left out of a word or number (as in *don't* and '86 for *do not* and 1986) **b** before or after s to show possession (as in *John's book*, *James' book*, *children's books*, *company's product*, *companies' products*) **c** before s to show the plural of letters and numbers (as in *There are two f's in off* and *Your 8's look like S's*)
- a-pos-tro-phize** also **-phise** *BrE* /ə'pɒstrəfaɪz||ə'paɪ-/ *v* [T] *fml* to address a speech to (an absent person, or an idea or quality as if it were a person)
- a-poth-e-ca-ry** /ə'pɒθə'kəri||ə'paɪθə'keri/ *n* *old use* a person with a knowledge of chemistry who mixed and sold medicines; PHARMACIST
- a-poth-e-o-sis** /ə'pɒθi'əʊsɪs||ə'paɪ-, ,æpə'θiəsɪs/ *n* -ses /sɪz/ [(of)] **1** the raising of a person or thing to the highest possible honour and glory, or the state reached in this way **2** *lit* the perfect example; QUINTESSENCE: *Christ's mother is the apotheosis of womanhood.*
- ap-pal** *BrE* || **appall** *AmE* /ə'pɒ:l/ *v* -ll- [T] to shock deeply; fill with fear, hatred, terror, etc.: *We were appalled when we heard that she had been murdered.* | *The prospect of another war appalled us.* | *They were appalled at/by the reports of the famine.*
- Ap-pa-la-chi-a** /,æpə'leɪtʃiə/ an area in the Appalachian mountains in the American SOUTH, known esp. for its POVERTY. Many old ways have been preserved by the people in Appalachia, including CRAFTS, country skills, and music.
- Ap-pa-la-chi-ans** /,æpə'leɪtʃiənz/ [the] the mountains in N America which run SW from the Quebec area in Canada to Alabama, US, with the highest point in North Carolina — see colour map on pages 1374-5
- ap-pal-ling** /ə'pɒ:lɪŋ/ *adj* **1** causing fear and hatred; shocking; terrible: *appalling cruelty* **2** *infml* very bad: *an appalling waste* | *appalling food* — ~ **ly** *adv*: *an appallingly bad driver*
- ap-pa-loo-sa** /,æpə'lʊ:sə/ *n* *AmE* a horse having many dark spots on a light-coloured coat
- ap-par-at-chik** /,æpə'rɑ:tʃɪk/ *n* an official working for a government or another organization, esp. when considered too ready to obey orders
- ap-pa-ra-tus** /,æpə'reɪtəs||-'ræ-/ *n* -tuses or -tus [C;U] **1** a set of equipment, machines, tools, materials, etc., that work together for a particular purpose: *a piece of apparatus in a gymnasium* | *sports apparatus* | *The television men set up their apparatus.* | *The astronauts have special breathing apparatus.* **2** an organization or system made up of many parts: *the government's apparatus for settling industrial disputes*
- ap-par-el**¹ /ə'pærəl/ *n* [U] **1** *lit* or *old use* clothes, esp. of a fine or special sort; GARB: *the Queen's ceremonial apparel* **2** esp. *AmE* (in comb.) clothes; clothing: *ladies' ready-to-wear apparel*
- apparel**² *v* -ll- *BrE* || -l- *AmE* [T (in) usu. pass.] *lit* or *old use* to dress, esp. in fine or special clothes
- ap-par-ent** /ə'pærənt/ *adj* **1** [(to)] easily seen or understood; EVIDENT: *Her anxiety was apparent to everyone.* | *The reasons for his sudden departure soon became apparent.* (=were soon understood) | *It's quite apparent that she has no intention of changing her mind.* **2** seeming to be real but not necessarily so: *The teacher was shocked by the parents' apparent lack of concern about their child's*

behaviour. | *The apparent improvement in this year's profits is due to the selling off of some of the company's property.* —see also HEIR APPARENT

ap-par-ent-ly /ə'pærəntli/ *adv* **1** it seems (that); according to what I have heard: *I wasn't there, but apparently it was a good party.* | *Apparently they're intending to put up the price of electricity.* | *"Did she pass her test?" "Apparently not."* **2** it is clear (that): *Apparently she never got my letter after all.* —compare EVIDENTLY, OBVIOUSLY

ap-pa-ri-tion /,æpə'riʃən/ *n* the spirit of a dead person moving in bodily form; GHOST: *He saw the apparition of his dead wife.*

ap-peal¹ /ə'pi:l/ *n* **1** [C;U (to, for)] (a) strong request for help, support, kindness, etc.: *His appeal for forgiveness went unanswered.* | *a personal appeal from the President on behalf of the victims* | *an appeal for money to build a new hall* **2** [U] power to move the feelings; attraction; interest: *Films of that sort have lost their appeal for me.* | *Her novels have wide appeal.* | *He hasn't got much sex appeal.* **3** [C;U] a formal request to a higher law court to change the decision of a lower court: *the right of appeal* | *a court of appeal* | *She has been convicted but her lawyer says she will lodge (=make) an appeal.* | *The court rejected his appeal.* **4** [C] (in sports) a call from a player for a decision from the UMPIRE or REFEREE (=the person who judges the rules of the game): *There was a loud appeal from the bowler and wicket keeper.*

appeal² *v* [I] **1** [(to, for)] to make a strong request for help, support, mercy, etc.: *The police are appealing to the public for any information about the murder victim.* | *They are appealing for funds to build a new church.* | *The government is appealing to everyone to save water.* **2** [(to) not in progressive forms] to please, attract, or interest: *Does the idea of working abroad appeal (to you)?* | *inexpensive jewellery which appeals to the 13 to 30 age group* **3** [(to, against)] to formally ask a higher law court to change the decision of a lower court: *I intend to appeal against this sentence/verdict.* | *The defendant has been given leave to appeal (to the High Court).* **4** (in sports) to make an appeal to the UMPIRE or REFEREE

appeal to sbdy./sthg. phr v [T] to look for support in: *By appealing to his better nature (=the good side of his character), we persuaded him to change his mind.*

Appeal Court /-·-·/ *n* COURT OF APPEAL

ap-peal-ing /ə'pi:liŋ/ *adj* **1** able to move the feelings: *the appealing eyes of a hungry dog* **2** attractive, pleasing, or interesting: *What an appealing little baby!* | *The idea of a free holiday is rather appealing.* —opposite **unappealing** (for 2) —*ly adv*

ap-pear /ə'piə/ *v* **1** [I] to become able to be seen; come into sight or become noticeable: *A car appeared over the hill.* | *In this disease spots appear on the skin.* | *If I don't appear (=arrive) by 7 o'clock, I won't be coming at all.* | *Her new book will be appearing in the shops very soon.* **2** [L not in progressive forms] to seem; to give to other people a particular idea or feeling (e.g. about one's character, feelings, or intentions): *She appeared rather upset about something.* | *He may appear a fool but actually he's quite clever.* | *It now appears certain that the fire was caused deliberately.* [+to-v] *He appears to be sincere but I don't completely trust him.* | *The discussion appears to have been friendly and fruitful.* | *There appears to have been a mistake over the numbers.* [(that)] *It appears she won't be coming after all.* | *It appears that I was wrong.* | *"Will she have to have an operation?" "It appears so/not."* | *It appears as if they've lost interest.* | (fml or pomp) **It would appear that the driver of the car was drunk.** **3** [I+adv/prep] to be present officially, e.g. in a court of law: *He had to appear before the committee to explain his behaviour.* | *Mr Jones will appear for you (=be your lawyer) in court tomorrow.* **4** [I+adv/prep] to perform publicly, e.g. in a play or film: *She has appeared in dozens of films.* | *He is currently appearing in Othello at the National Theatre.* **5** [I+adv/prep; not in progressive forms] to be found; exist: *This theme appears in several of her books.* | *I wasn't expecting that item to appear on the agenda.*

ap-pear-ance /ə'piərəns/ *n* **1** [C;U] (an example of) the act of appearing: *The last stage of the disease is marked by the appearance of blisters on the skin.* | *She's made a number of appearances on television/a number of television appearances.* | *He put in an appearance at the party (=went there for a time), but didn't stay long.* **2** [C;U]

the outside qualities of a person or thing, which can be seen by other people; the way a person or thing looks to other people: *His skin had an unhealthy appearance.* | *They changed the whole appearance of the house just by painting it.* | *I tried to give the appearance of being interested in his boring story.* | *Don't judge by appearances.* | **To/By all appearances** (=judging by what can be seen) *they're good friends.* **3 keep up appearances** to continue to live or behave in one's usual way, esp. in order to hide from other people a loss of money, social position, etc.

ap-pease /ə'pi:z/ *v* [T] to satisfy or make calm, esp. by giving in to demands or by doing something to fulfil a need: *I tried to appease them by offering to replace the car with a brand new one.* | *to appease one's curiosity by asking a few questions*

ap-pease-ment /ə'pi:zmənt/ *n* **1** [C;U] the act of appeasing **2** [U] *usu. derog* the political idea that peace can be continued by allowing one's enemies to have what they demand. In Britain the word is esp. used in association with Britain's POLICY of appeasement towards Hitler before the Second World War. —see also MUNICH AGREEMENT

ap-pel-late court /ə,pelət 'kɔ:t||-'kɔ:rt/ *n* a court which hears cases in which people are appealing (APPEAL (2)) against decisions made in other courts —see also extra information on page 742

ap-pel-la-tion /,æpə'leɪʃən/ *n* fml or pomp a name or title, esp. one that is formal or descriptive

ap-pend /ə'pend/ *v* [T (to)] fml to add or join (esp. something written or printed onto the end of a larger piece of written material): *They appended their signatures to the statement.*

ap-pend-age /ə'pendɪdʒ/ *n* **1** something that is added to, connected to, or hanging from something else that is larger or more important **2 med or fml** an arm or leg

ap-pen-dec-to-my /,æpən'dektəmi/ *n* [C;U] the medical operation of removing the appendix

ap-pen-di-ci-tis /ə,pendɪ'saɪtɪs/ *n* [U] the diseased state of the appendix, usu. causing it to be removed by means of a medical operation

ap-pen-dix /ə'pendɪks/ *n* -dixes or -dices /dɪ'sɪz/ **1** also **vermiform appendix**— a short worm-shaped organ leading off the bowel, and having little or no use: *to have one's appendix out* (=have it removed by means of a medical operation) **2** a part at the end of a book containing additional information

ap-per-tain /,æpə'teɪn||-ər-/ *v*

appertain to sthg. phr v [T no pass.] fml to concern or belong to (something) by right: *the responsibilities appertaining to the chairmanship*

ap-pe-tite /'æpə'taɪt/ *n* [C;U] a desire or wish to have something, esp. food: *Don't eat chocolate; it will spoil your appetite for dinner.* | *The baby has a good/healthy appetite.* (=eats well and enjoys its food) | (fig.) *He had no appetite for hard work.* | *sexual appetites* —see also **whet someone's appetite** (WHET); see DESIRE (USAGE)

ap-pe-tiz-er also -tiser BrE /'æpə'taɪzə/ *n* something eaten or drunk before or at the beginning of a meal to increase the desire for food

ap-pe-tiz-ing also -tising BrE /'æpə'taɪzɪŋ/ *adj* increasing one's appetite: *an appetizing smell* —opposite **unappetizing** —*ly adv*: *food appetizingly cooked*

ap-plaud /ə'plɔ:d/ *v* [I;T] **1** to show approval or enjoyment of (a play, actor, performer, etc.) esp. by striking one's hands together; CLAP **2** to express strong approval of (a person, idea, etc.): *We all applauded the authority's decision not to close the hospital.*

ap-plause /ə'plɔ:z/ *n* [U] loud praise for a performance or performer, esp. by striking the hands together; clapping (CLAP): *The band got a big round of applause at the end of the concert.* | *polite/enthusiastic applause*

ap-ple /'æpəl/ *n* **1** a hard round fruit with white juicy flesh and a red, green, or yellow skin: *She ate the entire apple, core and all.* | *an apple tree* —see picture at FRUIT

► **CULTURAL NOTE** The apple is sometimes mentioned in connection with the story in the Bible of Adam and Eve, the first man and woman, who ate an apple that God had told them not to eat. As a result, they were sent away from the Garden of Eden —see also TREE OF KNOWLEDGE The apple is also sometimes mentioned in connection with Isaac

Newton and William Tell. —see Isaac NEWTON, William TELL ◀

2 an apple a day keeps the doctor away an old saying meaning that apples are good for your health **3 the apple of one's eye** *infml* one's favourite person or thing

apple but-ter /ˌɪ· ˈ.. ˈ.. ˈ.. / *n* [U] *AmE* a kind of JAM made from apples

apple cart /ˌɪ· ˈ.. / *n* **upset the/someone's apple cart** *infml* to spoil someone's plans

ap-ple-jack /ˈæpəldʒæk/ *n* [U] *AmE* a SPIRIT (=very strong alcoholic drink) made from apples

Ap-ple-mac /ˌæpəlˈmæk/ *n* *tdmk* also **Apple Macintosh** a type of personal computer which is simple, quick, and easy to use

apple of dis-cord /ˌɪ· ˈ.. ˈ.. / *n* a cause of argument (from the story in CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY in which a golden apple with "For the Fairest" written on it causes an argument between the goddesses Hera, Athena, and Aphrodite)

apple pie /ˌɪ· ˈ.. ˈ.. / *n* **1** [C;U] apples cooked in pastry. Apple pie is considered by Americans to be something that is typically American: *as American as apple pie* **2 in apple-pie order** *BrE infml* in perfect arrangement or order: *He kept all his tools in apple-pie order.*

apple-pie bed /ˌɪ· ˈ.. ˈ.. / *n* *BrE* a bed where the sheets have been folded in a special way so that no one can get into it. People make apple-pie beds for other people as a joke —compare SHORT-SHEET

apple pol-ish-er /ˌɪ· ˈ.. ˈ.. / *n* *AmE derog* a person who tries to win favour by being very helpful and praising someone in an insincere way

apple sauce /ˌɪ· ˈ.. ˈ.. / *n* *BrE* [U] cooked, crushed apples served as a thick liquid, usu. with ROAST PORK

ap-ple-sauce /ˈæpəlsɔ:s/ *n* [U] *AmE* **1** cooked, crushed apples used as a DESSERT (=sweet food eaten after a meal) or as baby food **2 infml** nonsense

Ap-ples-eed /ˈæpəlsɪd/, **John-ny** /ˈdʒɒni ˈdʒɑ:-/ the popular name of **John Chapman** (1774–1845), who walked around the eastern US planting apple trees and encouraging other people to plant them

ap-pli-ance /əˈplaɪəns/ *n* an apparatus, instrument, or tool for a particular purpose, esp. an electrical machine that is used in the house: **domestic appliances** such as *dishwashers and washing machines* —see MACHINE (USAGE)

ap-plic-a-ble /əˈplɪkəbəl, ˈæplɪkəbəl/ *adj* **1** [(to)] directed towards or concerning a particular person or group: *This section of the form is not applicable in your case.* | *The rule is only applicable to UK citizens.* **2** able to have an effect: *The new law becomes applicable from Monday.*

ap-pli-cant /ˈæplɪkənt/ *n* [(for)] a person who makes a request, esp. officially and in writing, for a job, for entrance to a school or university, for theatre tickets, etc.: *We had 250 applicants for the job.*

ap-pli-ca-tion /ˌæplɪˈkeɪʃən/ *n* **1** [C;U (for, to)] (the act of making) a request, esp. officially and in writing: *Tickets may be bought on application to the theatre.* | *I wrote five applications for jobs but didn't get a single reply.* | *Have you filled in the application form for a new passport?* | *His lawyer made an application for bail.* | *a membership application* **2** [U (of, to)] the act of putting something to use: *The application of new scientific discoveries to industrial processes usually makes jobs easier to do.* **3** [C] a particular practical use: *a new discovery that had a number of industrial applications* | *application software* **4** [C;U (to)] the putting of one thing onto another, e.g. of medicine onto the skin or paint onto a surface: *Your foot will feel better after the application of this ointment.* | *The door may need another application of paint.* **5** [U] careful and continuous attention or effort; DILIGENCE: *She worked with great application.* **6** [U (to)] the quality of being related or applicable: *That rule has no application to this particular case.*

ap-plied /əˈplaɪd/ *adj* (esp. of a science) able to be put to practical use: *applied physics* —compare PURE (6)

applied math-e-mat-ics /ˌɪ· ˈ.. ˈ.. / also **applied maths** /ˌɪ· ˈ.. ˈ.. / *BrE infml* — *n* [U] the science of numbers developed for practical purposes —compare PURE MATHEMATICS

ap-pli-qué /əˈplɪˌkeɪ, ˈæplɪˌkeɪ/ *n* [U] (esp. in dressmaking) decorative work of one material sewn or stuck onto a larger surface of another material

ap-ply /əˈplaɪ/ *v* **1** [I (to, for)] to request something, esp.

officially and in writing: *I'll apply (for the job) today.* | *We've applied to the council for a home improvement grant.* | *Anyone under 30 need not apply.* (=is not considered suitable) **2** [T (to)] to bring or put into use or operation: *Apply as much force as is necessary.* | *Scientific discoveries are often applied to industrial processes.* | *to apply the brakes* | *to apply one's mind to a problem* **3** [T (to)] to put or spread on a surface: *Apply the paint evenly to both sides of the door.* **4** [I;T (to)] *not in progressive forms* to (cause to) have an effect; be directly related: *This rule does not apply in your particular case/cannot be applied to every case.* | *The questions in the second half of the form apply only to married men.* **5** **apply oneself (to)** to work hard or with careful attention (at): *He has a lot of talent, but he won't apply himself.*

ap-point /əˈpɔɪnt/ *v* [T] **1** [(as, to)] to choose for a position or job: *We have decided to appoint a new teacher.* | *She's been appointed as sales director/to the post of sales director.* [+obj+n] *They appointed him chairman.* | *He was appointed chairman.* [+obj+to-v] *I've been appointed to run the overseas section.* | *A committee was appointed to investigate these complaints.* —see HIRE (USAGE) **2** *fml* to arrange or decide (esp. a time or place when something will happen): *The committee has appointed a day in July for your case to be heard.* | *She wasn't there at the appointed time.* —see also SELF-APPOINTED, WELL-APPOINTED —**pointee** *n*: a presidential appointee (=appointed by the president)

ap-point-ment /əˈpɔɪntmənt/ *n* **1** [C (with)] an arrangement for a meeting at an agreed time and place, esp. a formal meeting with an important or official person: *The director won't see you unless you have an appointment.* | *I have an appointment at 10.30 with the doctor.* [+to-v] *Can I make an appointment to see the manager?* | *a hairdressing appointment* | *a 12 o'clock appointment* **2** [U] the agreement of a time and place for meeting: *He will only see you by appointment.* **3** [C;U (as, of, to)] (the choosing of someone for) a position or job: *We were all pleased about the appointment of John as chairman/to be chairman.* | *I hope to get a teaching appointment at the new school.* | (*fml*) *Smiths Ltd., wine merchants by appointment to the Queen*

▷ USAGE When you arrange to see someone at a fixed time you **make an appointment**. If you then actually see the person as arranged, you **keep the appointment**. If you cannot come, you write or telephone to **cancel the appointment**. Because appointment is somewhat formal, we usually don't use it to talk about an arranged meeting with our friends. —compare MEETING³ and DATE³ ◀

Ap-po-mat-tox /ˌæpəˈmætəks/ a town in Virginia, US, where the Confederate general Robert E Lee gave up control to the Union army in 1865 bringing the Civil War to an end at a place which has now become a national historical park

ap-por-tion /əˈpɔ:ʃən ˌɔ:r-/ *v* [T (between, among)] to divide and share out: *We must apportion the money fairly.* | *It was difficult to apportion the blame for the accident between the two drivers.* — **ment** *n* [C;U]

ap-po-site /ˈæpəzɪt/ *adj* [(to, for)] *fml* exactly suitable to or directly connected with the present moment or situation: *an apposite remark*

ap-po-si-tion /ˌæpəˈzɪʃən/ *n* [(in) U (to)] *tech* (in grammar) an arrangement in which one simple sentence contains two or more noun phrases that describe the same person or thing and are used in the same way. In the sentence "The defendant, a woman of 35, denies kicking the policeman" the two phrases "the defendant" and "a woman of 35" are in apposition (to each other).

ap-prais-al /əˈpreɪzəl/ *n* [(of)] (a statement or opinion based on) an act of appraising: *What's your appraisal of the situation?* | *a system for the annual appraisal of employees' work*

ap-praise /əˈpreɪz/ *v* [T] *fml* to judge the worth, quality, or condition of; find out the value of; EVALUATE: *They employed a consultant to appraise the relative merits of the two computer systems.* | *It's difficult to appraise the damage this might do to his political reputation.*

ap-pre-cia-ble /əˈpri:ʃəbəl/ *adj* enough to be felt, noticed, or considered important: *an appreciable difference* —**bly** *adv*: *The temperature dropped appreciably last night.*

ap-pre-ci-ate /ə'pri:ʃiət/ *v* 1 [T] to recognize and enjoy the good qualities or worth of: *She doesn't appreciate good wine.* | *His abilities were not appreciated in his job.* 2 [T not in progressive forms] to understand fully; recognize: *I don't think you appreciate the difficulties this will cause.* [+that] *I appreciate that this is not an easy decision for you to make.* 3 [T] to be thankful or grateful for: *I appreciate your help.* | *I'd appreciate it if you would turn the radio down.* (=please turn it down) 4 [I (in)] (of property, possessions, etc.) to increase in value over a period of time: *Houses in this area have all appreciated (in value) since the new road was built.* —opposite **depreciate** (for 4)

ap-pre-ci-a-tion /ə, pri:ʃi'eɪʃən/ *n* 1 [U] understanding of the good qualities or worth of something: *The audience showed their appreciation with loud cheers.* 2 [C;U (of)] a judgment of the worth or facts of something: *The pupils wrote an appreciation of the play they had just seen.* | *a realistic appreciation of the situation* 3 [S;U (in)] (a) rise in value, esp. of land or possessions: *an appreciation of 50% in property values*

ap-pre-cia-tive /ə'pri:ʃətiʋ/ *adj* [(of)] feeling or showing admiration or thanks; showing appreciation: *an appreciative audience* | *He was very appreciative of his colleagues' support during his illness.* —opposite **unappreciative** —*ly adv*

ap-pre-hend /,æpri'hend/ *v* [T] 1 *fml* to take (a person who breaks the law) into police control; **ARREST** 2 *old use* to understand

ap-pre-hen-sion /,æpri'hensən/ *n* 1 [C;U] anxiety about the future; expectation of something unpleasant: *We waited for their decision with a great deal of apprehension.* 2 [U] *fml* the act of apprehending someone; **ARREST** 3 [U] *old use* ability to understand; understanding

ap-pre-hen-sive /,æpri'hensiv/ *adj* [(about, for)] full of fear or anxiety about the future; worried: *He looked apprehensive as he waited for the result to be broadcast.* | *She was apprehensive about her son's safety.* —*ly adv*

ap-pren-tice¹ /ə'prentɪs/ *n* [(to)] a person who is under an agreement to work, for a number of years and usu. for low wages, for a person who is skilled in a trade, in order to learn that person's skill: *an apprentice electrician* | *The company is taking on four new apprentices.*

apprentice² *v* [T (to) *usu. pass.*] to make someone an apprentice: *She's apprenticed to a plumber.*

ap-pren-tice-ship /ə'prentɪʃɪp/ *n* [C;U] (the condition or period of having) a job as an apprentice. In Britain and the US the state does not have an official system of apprenticeships. Apprenticeships are usu. offered by companies or by skilled workers who need someone to help them and are willing to teach their skill in return for this help: *The number of apprenticeships has declined sharply in recent years.* | *At the end of your apprenticeship your pay will be doubled.*

ap-prise /ə'praɪz/ *v* [T (of)] *fml, becoming rare* to inform; tell: *We apprised him of our arrival.*

ap-proach¹ /ə'prəʊtʃ/ *v* 1 [I;T] to come near or nearer (to) in space, time, quality, or quantity: *Silently we approached the enemy's camp.* | *The time is approaching when we will have to leave.* | *He's approaching 80.* (=is nearly 80 years old) | *They had to work in temperatures approaching 35°.* | *He's a good player, but doesn't approach international standard.* 2 [T (about)] to speak to (someone), esp. in order to make a request or suggestion for the first time: *Did he approach you about lending him some money?* —see also **APPROACHABLE** 3 [T] to begin to consider or deal with: *There are several ways of approaching this problem.*

approach² *n* 1 [U (of)] the act of approaching: *Our approach drove away the wild animals.* | *The approach of winter brings cold weather.* 2 [C (to)] a way of getting in: *All approaches to the town were blocked.* 3 [C (to)] a method of doing something or dealing with a problem: *a new approach to cancer treatment* | *a diplomatic approach* 4 [C (to)] an act of speaking to someone (about something) for the first time: *We have made approaches to them with a view to forming a business partnership.*

ap-proa-cha-ble /ə'prəʊtʃəbəl/ *adj* 1 easy to speak to or deal with; friendly: *You'll find the director a very approachable person.* —opposite **unapproachable** 2 able to be reached

approach shot /'ɔː. ɪ./ *n* (in GOLF) a shot from the FAIRWAY to the GREEN

ap-pro-ba-tion /,æprə'beɪʃən/ *n* [U] *fml* praise or approval, esp. when official

ap-pro-pri-ate¹ /ə'prəʊpri-ət/ *adj* [(for, to)] correct or suitable for a particular situation or occasion: *His bright clothes were hardly appropriate for such a solemn occasion.* | *I think this is an appropriate moment to raise the question of my promotion.* | *Complaints must be addressed to the appropriate authority.* —opposite **inappropriate** —*ly adv* —*ness n* [U]

ap-pro-pri-ate² /ə'prəʊpri-ət/ *v* [T] 1 [(for)] to set aside for a particular purpose; **ALLOCATE**: *The government has appropriated a large sum of money for building hospitals.* 2 *fml* to take for oneself or for one's own use, esp. without permission: *The minister was found to have appropriated government money.* —see also **MISAPPROPRIATE** —**ation** /ə,prəʊpri'eɪʃən/ *n* [C;U (of)] : *appropriation of public money for a new hospital* | *an appropriation of £5,000,000 for a new hospital*

ap-prov-al /ə'pru:vəl/ *n* [U] 1 favourable opinion or judgment: *The audience showed its approval by cheering loudly.* | (*fml*) *I hope that the arrangements meet with your approval.* | *The new proposals have won the approval of the board.* | *By inviting her to the palace, the Queen has given her the royal seal of approval.* —opposite **disapproval** 2 official permission: *We can't start building without the council's approval.* 3 **on approval** (of goods taken or sent from a shop) to be returned without payment if the customer is not satisfied

ap-prove /ə'pru:v/ *v* 1 [I (of) not in progressive forms] to have a favourable opinion, esp. of a course of action or type of behaviour; regard as good, right, sensible, etc.: *I don't approve of smoking in bed/of people who smoke in bed.* | *You made a good decision, and I thoroughly/heartily approve of it.* | *You can join the class if your mother approves.* 2 [T] to agree officially to; **RATIFY**: *The city council approved the building plans.* | *The equipment must be bought from a supplier approved by the company.* | *an approved course in computer programming* —**provingly adv**

approved school /'ɔː. ɪ./ *n* [C;U] a special school where children in Britain who have broken the law are sent if they are under 18 years old and so cannot be sent to prison. These schools are now officially called **COMMUNITY HOMES**.

approx *written abbrev. for: approximately*

ap-prox-i-mate¹ /ə'prɒksɪmət||ə'pra:k-/ *adj* nearly correct but not exact: *The approximate number of children in the school is 300.* | *This is just an approximate figure.* —*ly adv* : *The plane will be landing in approximately 15 minutes.*

ap-prox-i-mate² /ə'prɒksɪmeɪt||ə'pra:k-/ *v* [I+to;L] *fml* to come near (to) in amount, nature, etc.: *Your story only approximates to the real facts.* | *The cost will approximate £5,000,000.*

ap-prox-i-ma-tion /ə,prɒksɪ'meɪʃən||ə'pra:k-/ *n* [C;U (to, of)] a result, calculation, etc., that is not exact but is good enough: *Could you give us a rough approximation of the likely cost?*

ap-pur-te-nance /ə'pɜːtɪnəns, -tən-||ə'pɜːrtənəns/ *n* [*usu. pl.*] law something connected with something else, esp. the rights or responsibilities that go with owning property

APR /,eɪ piː 'ɑː/ *n* Annual Percentage Rate; the annual rate of interest payable by anyone buying something over a period of time by borrowing money: *credit price £199.95, APR 25.3%, 20 weeks at £10 per week*

ap-rès-ski /,æpreɪ 'skiː-||,ɑː-/ *n,adj* (of or suitable for) activities taken part in after skiing (SKI), esp. eating, drinking, etc.

a-pri-cot /'eɪprɪkɒt||'æprɪkɑːt/ *n* 1 [C] a round soft orange or yellow fruit with a furry outside like a PEACH but smaller and with a single large stone 2 [U] the colour of this fruit

April /'eɪprəl/ (*written abbrev. Apr.*) *n* [C;U] the fourth month of the year, between March and May. When people think of April, they typically think of Easter, spring flowers, lambs, and **April showers** (=a light rain which often falls in April). They also think of **April Fools' Day**, which is April 1st. *It happened on April the seventeenth/on the seventeenth of April(AmE) on April seventeenth.* | *This office opened in April 1991.* | *She started work here last April/the April before last.*

April fool /ˌɪː ˈfɔːl/ *n* (a person who has been deceived or made fun of by) a trick played on April 1st

April Fools' Day /ˌɪː ˈfɔːlz ˈdeɪ/ April 1st, a day when people play tricks on others, esp. by telling them something that is not true, also called **All Fools' Day**

a pri-o-ri /ˌeɪ prɪˈɔːrɪ, ˌɑː prɪˈɔːrɪ/ *adj, adv Lat* (of an argument) using a cause to form a judgment about probable results (as in the statement *It is raining so the streets must be wet*) — compare **A POSTERIORI**

a-pron /ˈeɪprən/ *n* **1** a simple piece of clothing worn over the front part of one's clothes to keep them clean while one is cooking, doing something dirty, etc. Aprons are usu. worn by women in the home, and by people such as **CHEFS** at work. **2** also **apron stage** /ˌɪː ˈstɛɪʒ/ — that part of a stage in a theatre that comes forward towards where the public sit **3** (in an airport) the hard surface on which planes are turned round, loaded, unloaded, etc.

apron strings /ˌɪː ˈstɪŋz/ *n* [P] *infml* the strings of an apron regarded as a sign of the control of a boy or man by his mother or wife: *Though he's nearly 40, he's still tied to his mother's apron strings, and has never married.*

ap-ro-pos /ˌæprəˈpəʊ, ˌæprəpəʊ/ *adv, prep* [(of)] (used to introduce a new subject connected with what has just been mentioned): *John was here yesterday; apropos, (=it's suitable to say this now) he's got a new job.* | *Apropos (of) John's new job (=while we're talking about it), what's he earning?*

apropos ² *adj* [F] very suitable for the time or situation; **PERTINENT**: *I thought her remarks were very apropos.*

apse /æps/ *n* the curved or many-sided end of a building, esp. the east end of a church

apt /æpt/ *adj* **1** [F+to-v] having a natural or habitual tendency to do something; likely: *This kind of shoe is apt to slip on wet ground.* **2** exactly suitable; **PERTINENT**: *an apt remark* **3** [(at)] *fml* quick to learn and understand: *an apt student* — ~ly *adv* — ~ness *n* [U]

▷ **USAGE** Compare *He is apt to/He is inclined to/He tends to lose his temper in difficult situations* (=this is one of his general characteristics) and *When he finds out what you said, he is likely to lose his temper* (=I think that this will happen in this particular situation) <

ap-ti-tude /ˌæptɪˈtjuːd||-tʊd/ *n* [C;U (for)] natural ability or skill, esp. in learning: *She showed great aptitude/an aptitude for learning languages.* | *an aptitude test*

aq-ua-lung /ˌækwəlɒŋ/ *n* an apparatus that provides air for a swimmer under water, esp. a container of special air that is carried on the back and has a tube that takes the air to the mouth or nose

aq-ua-ma-rine /ˌækwəməˈrɪzn/ *n* **1** [C] a glass-like blue-green stone used for jewellery **2** [U] the colour of this stone — **aquamarine** *adj*

aq-ua-plane ¹ /ˌækwəpleɪn/ *n* a thin board, used in a sporting activity, on which a person stands to be pulled quickly along the surface of the sea, a lake, etc., by a rope from a fast motorboat

aquaplane ² *v* [I] **1** to ride on an aquaplane **2** *BrE* || **hydroplane** *AmE* — (of a car) to slide forwards without control on a wet road, not touching the actual road surface at all

a-quar-i-um /əˈkweəriəm/ *n* **iums or -ia** /iə/ **1** a transparent container for fish and other water animals **2** a building (esp. in a zoo) containing many of these

A-quar-i-us /əˈkweəriəs/ *n* **1** [U] the eleventh (**ELEVEN**) sign of the **ZODIAC**, represented by a person pouring water **2** [C] a person born between January 21 and February 19 — see **ZODIAC** (**USAGE**) and see picture at **ZODIAC**

Aq-ua-scu-tum /ˌækwəˈskjuːtəm/ *tdmk* an expensive clothing shop in London

a-quat-ic /əˈkwætɪk, əˈkwɒ-||əˈkwæ-, əˈkwæ-/ *adj* living or happening in or on water: *aquatic plants/animals* | *Aquatic sports include swimming and rowing.* — ~ally *adv*

aq-ua-tint /ˌækwətɪnt/ *n* **1** [U] the method of producing a picture on a flat piece of copper by letting a strong acid eat away the parts that have not been protected by wax or some other material **2** [C] a picture printed from such a piece of copper

aq-ue-duct /ˌækwəˈdʌkt/ *n* a bridge, pipe, or **CANAL** that car-

ries a water supply, esp. one that is built higher than the land around it or that goes across a valley

a-que-ous /ˈeɪkwɪəs, ˈækwɪəs/ *adj tech* of, like, containing, or in water

aq-ui-line /ˌækwəlɪn||-lɪn, -lən/ *adj* of or like an **EAGLE**: *An aquiline nose is one that curves like an eagle's beak.* | *her sharp aquiline profile*

A-qui-nas /əˈkwɪnəs/, **St Thomas** (about 1225–74) an Italian religious writer and thinker whose ideas have been influential and important in the Catholic Church

A-qui-no /əˈkiːnəʊ/, **Ma-ri-a Co-ra-zón** /məˈrɪə kɔːrəˈzɒn||-ˈzɑːn/ (1933–) a former president of the Philippines who became president after helping to remove President Marcos from power

AR *written abbrev. for* **ARKANSAS**

Ar-ab /ˈærəb/ *n* **1** a person descended from the people of the Arabian **PENINSULA**, and whose first language is usually Arabic **2** *BrE* || **arabian** *AmE* a type of fast graceful horse

ar-a-besque /ˌærəˈbesk/ *n* **1** a position in **BALLET** dancing **2** a flowing decorative line or pattern

A-ra-bi-a /əˈreɪbiə/ the **PENINSULA** which contains Saudi Arabia, Yemen, and several other countries

A-ra-bi-an /əˈreɪbiən/ *adj* of Arabia: *the Arabian desert*

Arabian Nights /ˌɪː ˈnaɪts/ [*the*] the popular name for the *Thousand and One Nights*, a book of Arabic stories from the tenth century AD, in which Scheherazade prevents her husband from killing her by amusing him with a different story for a **THOUSAND** and one nights — see **ALADDIN**, **ALI BABA**, **SINDBAD**

Ar-a-bic /ˈærəbɪk/ *n* [U] the **SEMITIC** language or writing of the Arabs, which is the main language of North Africa, the Middle East, and Arabia: *She is studying Arabic.* — **Arabic** *adj*

Arabic nu-me-ral /ˌɪː ˈnɜːrəl/ *n* **1** any of the signs (such as 1, 2, 3, 4) used for numbers in the English and many other alphabets — compare **ROMAN NUMERAL** **2** any of the signs used for numbers in the Arabic alphabet, on which the above number signs were based

Arab-Is-rae-li War /ˌɪː ˈræli ˈwɔː/ *n* [*the*] any of the wars between Israel and the Arab countries, e.g. the 1967–1973 war.

ar-a-ble /ˈærəbəl/ *adj* (of land) suitable or used for growing crops — compare **PASTURE**

Arab League /ˌɪː ˈliː/ [*the*] an association of Arab countries formed in 1945

Ar-a-fat /ˈærəfæt/, **Yas-ser** /ˈjæsər/ (1929–) a Palestinian nationalist politician and president of the **PLO**

Ar-al-dite /ˈærəldɪt/ *n* [U] *tdmk* a type of strong glue

Ar-al Sea /ˌærəl ˈsiː/ an inland sea between Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan which is now often much reduced in size or even dry

Ar-a-ma-ic /ˌærəˈmeɪ-ɪk/ *n* [U] a Semitic language spoken in SW Asia as a **LINGUA FRANCA**, and still spoken in parts of Syria and Lebanon — **Aramaic** *adj*

Ar-an Is-lands /ˈærən ˌaɪləndz/ [*the*+P] a group of three islands off the SW coast of the Irish Republic

Aran jum-per /ˌɪː ˈdʒʌmpər/ also

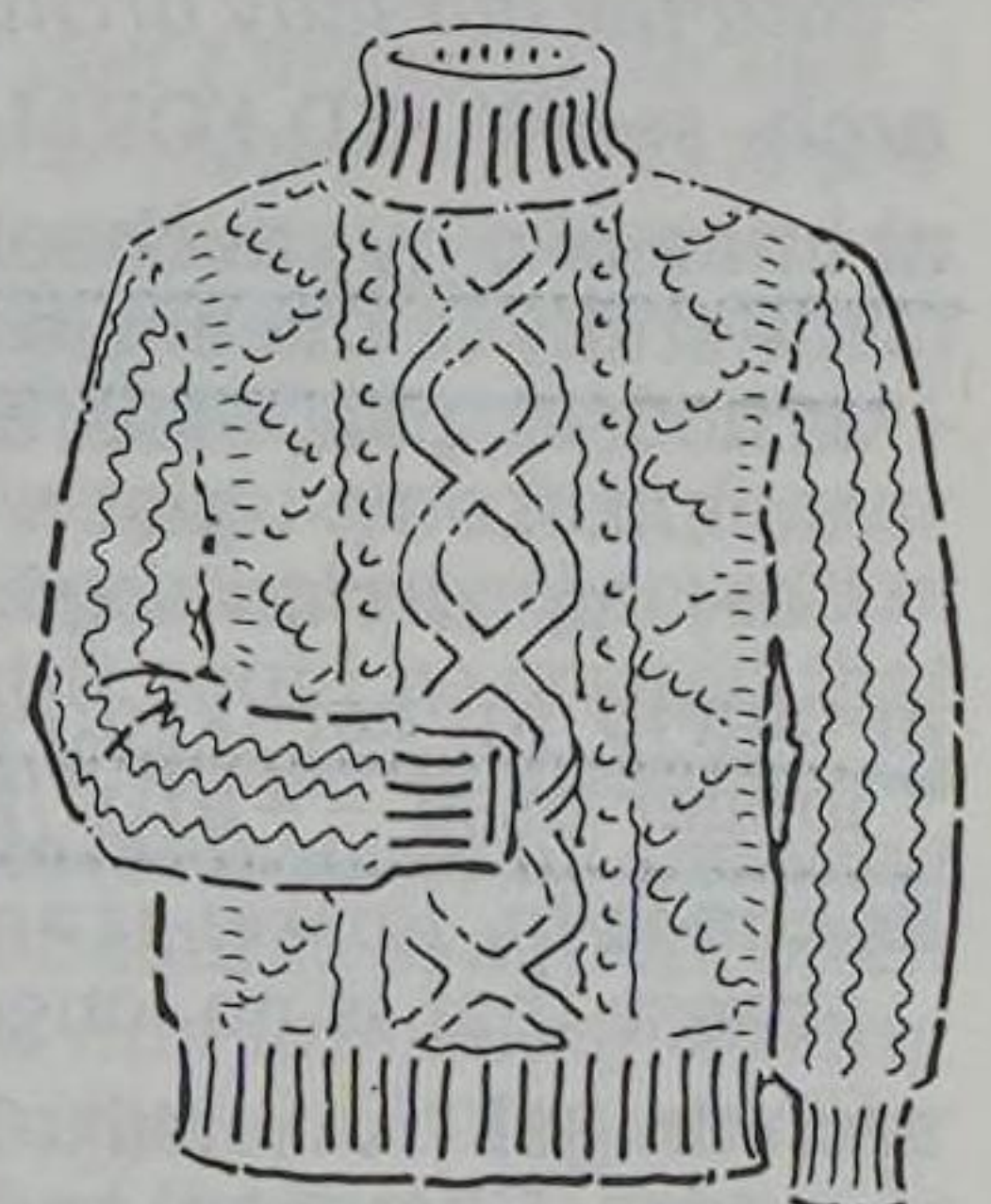
Aran sweater *n* a thick woollen **JUMPER** with a raised pattern of many different stitches, usu. made from natural-coloured wool

A-rap-a-ho /əˈræpəhəʊ/ *n* [C; *the*+P] (a member of) a Native American people from the **GREAT PLAINS** of the US — see **NATIVE AMERICAN** (**CULTURAL NOTE**)

Ar-a-rat /ˈærəræt/, **Mount** a mountain in E Turkey which according to old stories was the landing place of Noah's **ARK**

ar-bi-ter /ˈɑːbɪtər||ˈɑːr-/ *n* someone who is in a position to make influential judgments or to settle an argument: *She became the supreme arbiter of fashion in beachwear.* | *the arbiter of a conflict/crisis*

Aran jumper



ar-bi-trage /'ɑ:bɪtræʒ||'ɑ:r-/ *n* [U] the process of buying something (esp. a COMMODITY or CURRENCY) in one place and selling it in another place at the same time in order to profit from differences in price between the two places — **trageur** /,ɑ:bɪtræ:ʒɜ:r||'ɑ:r-/ *n*

ar-bi-tra-ry /'ɑ:bɪtrəri, -tri||'ɑ:r-bɪtrəri/ *adj* often derog **1** typical of power that is uncontrolled and used without considering the wishes of others: *arbitrary arrests/punishments* | *an arbitrary ruler* **2** decided by or based on chance or personal opinion rather than facts or reason; RANDOM: *I didn't know anything about any of the books so my choice was quite arbitrary.* — **rily** /'ɑ:bɪtrərɪli||'ɑ:r-bɪ'treərɪli/ *adv* — **-riness** *n* [U]

ar-bi-trate /'ɑ:bɪtreɪt||'ɑ:r-/ *v* [I;T (between)] to act as a judge in (an argument), esp. at the request of both sides: *They've appointed a committee to arbitrate the dispute/to arbitrate between the management and unions.* — compare INTERMEDIARY; see also ACAS — **-trator** *n*

ar-bi-tra-tion /,ɑ:bɪ'treɪʃən||'ɑ:r-/ *n* [U] the settling of an argument by the decision of a person or group that has been chosen by both sides: *The men agreed to go to arbitration to settle their pay claim.*

Ar-bor Day /'ɑ:bə deɪ||'ɑ:r-bər-/ an unofficial US holiday when people plant trees. Arbor Day is celebrated on different days in different states and school children often take part in it.

ar-bo-re-al /ɑ:'bɔ:riəl||'ɑ:r-/ *adj* tech of or living in trees: *arboreal animals*

ar-bo-re-tum /,ɑ:bə'ri:təm||'ɑ:r-/ *-ta* /tə/ or *-tums* *n* a place where trees are grown for study or for people to learn about them

ar-bour BrE || **arbor** AmE /'ɑ:bəʊ||'ɑ:r-/ *n* a sheltered place in a garden, usu. made by making trees or bushes grow so as to form an arch

arc /ɑ:k||'ɑ:r-k/ *n* **1** part of a curved line or circle: *an arc of 110°* | *The sun appears to move in an arc across the sky.* **2** a very powerful flow of electricity through the air or of gas between two points, esp. as used to produce light in an **arc lamp** — see also ARC WELDING

ar-cade /ɑ:'keɪd||'ɑ:r-/ *n* a covered passage, esp. one with a roof supported by arches or with a row of shops on one or both sides: *a shopping arcade* — see also AMUSEMENT ARCADE

arcade game /'ɑ:keɪd geɪm/ *n* AmE a coin-operated electronic machine with a VIDEO SCREEN and controls which is played for amusement

Ar-ca-di-a /ɑ:'keɪdiə||'ɑ:r-/ an area or scene of simple pleasant country life (from the REGION of ancient Greece called Arcadia, where people lived this kind of life)

ar-cane /ɑ:'keɪn||'ɑ:r-/ *adj* lit mysterious and secret; ESO-TERIC: *arcane knowledge/rituals*

arch¹ /ɑ:tʃ||'ɑ:r-tʃ/ *n* **1** a curved top on two supports, e.g. under a bridge or a church roof or above a door or window: *The bridge had seven arches.* **2** something with this shape, esp. the middle of the bottom of the foot — see picture at FOOT

arch² *v* [I;T] to form an arch or make into the shape of an arch: *The trees arched over the path.* | *The cat arched its back in anger.*

arch³ *adj* making fun of people in a clever or playful way: *an arch smile* — **ly** *adv*: *"I know what you're thinking!" said the old lady archly.*

arch- see WORD FORMATION

ar-cha-e-ol-o-gy, **archeology** /,ɑ:ki'plədʒi||,ɑ:rki'ɑ:z/ *n* [U] the study of the buried remains of ancient times, such as houses, pots, tools, and weapons — see also INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY — **-gist** *n* — **-gical** /,ɑ:kiə'lɒdʒɪkəl||,ɑ:rkiə'lɑ:z/ *adj*: *archaeological excavations* — **-gically** /kli/ *adv*

ar-cha-ic /ɑ:'keɪ-ɪk||'ɑ:r-/ *adj* belonging to the past; no longer used — **-ally** /kli/ *adv*

ar-cha-is-m /ɑ:'keɪ-ɪzəm, 'ɑ:keɪ-||'ɑ:rki-/ *n* a word or phrase that is no longer in general use

arch-an-gel /'ɑ:keɪndʒəl||'ɑ:r-k-/ *n* a chief ANGEL in the Jewish, Christian, and Muslim religions: *the archangel Gabriel*

arch-bish-op /,ɑ:tʃ'bɪʃəp||,ɑ:r-tʃ-/ *n* (often cap.) (in some branches of the Christian church) a priest in charge of the churches and BISHOPS in a very large area: *Archbishop Jones* | *His Grace the Archbishop of York*

Archbishop of Can-ter-bu-ry /,ɑ:.. '.... / [the] the head of the Anglican church in England — see CANTERBURY

Archbishop of West-min-ster /,ɑ:.. '.... / [the] the head of the Roman Catholic church in Britain

arch-bish-op-ric /,ɑ:tʃ'bɪʃəprɪk||,ɑ:r-tʃ-/ *n* the rank of, period in office of, or area governed by an archbishop

arch-dea-con /,ɑ:tʃ'di:kən||,ɑ:r-tʃ-/ *n* (in the Anglican branch of the Christian church) a priest of high rank who serves directly under a BISHOP

arch-di-o-cese /,ɑ:tʃ'daɪəsɪs, -sɪs||,ɑ:r-tʃ-/ *n* the church area under the government of an archbishop

arch-duke /,ɑ:tʃ'dju:k||,ɑ:r-tʃ'du:k/ *n* (often cap.) a royal prince, esp. of the royal family of Austria in former times: *Archduke Charles*

arch-en-e-my /,ɑ:tʃ'enəmi||,ɑ:r-tʃ-/ *n* **1** [C] a main enemy **2** [the] (often cap.) the devil

ar-che-ol-o-gy /,ɑ:ki'plədʒi||,ɑ:rki'ɑ:z/ *n* ARCHAEOLOGY

ar-cher /'ɑ:tʃəʊ||'ɑ:r-/ *n* a person who shoots ARROWS from a BOW³ (=piece of bent wood), either as a sport or (formerly) in war

Archer, Jef-frey /'dʒefri/ (1940–) an English Conservative politician and writer of best-selling NOVELS, including *First Among Equals*. He became Lord Archer in 1992.

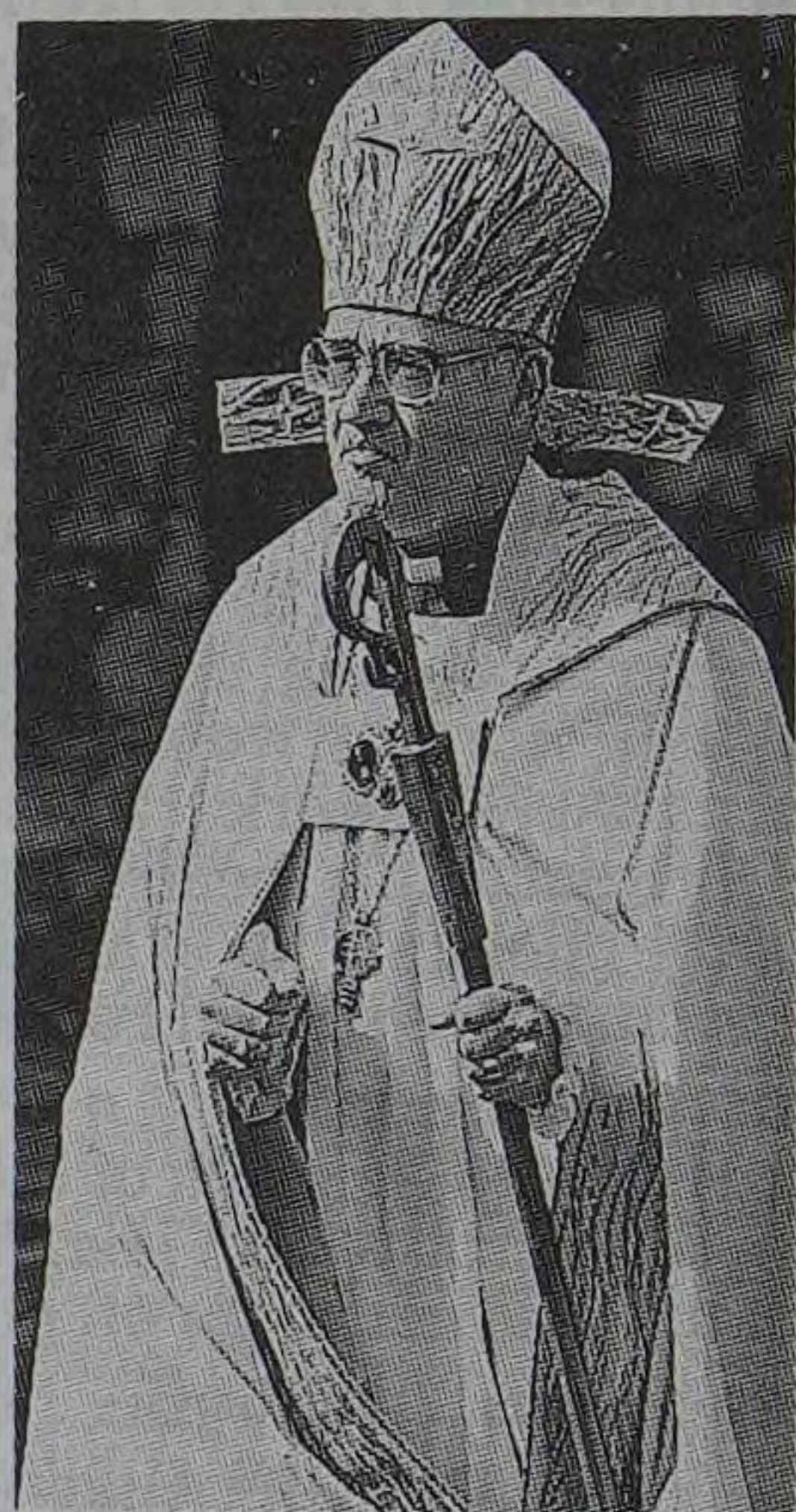
Ar-chers /'ɑ:tʃəz||'ɑ:r-tʃəz/, **The** a British radio programme about a farming family, which has been running since 1951 and is very popular. It is set in a small imaginary country village called Ambridge.

ar-cher-y /'ɑ:tʃəri||'ɑ:r-/ *n* [U] the art or sport of shooting arrows — see picture at TARGET

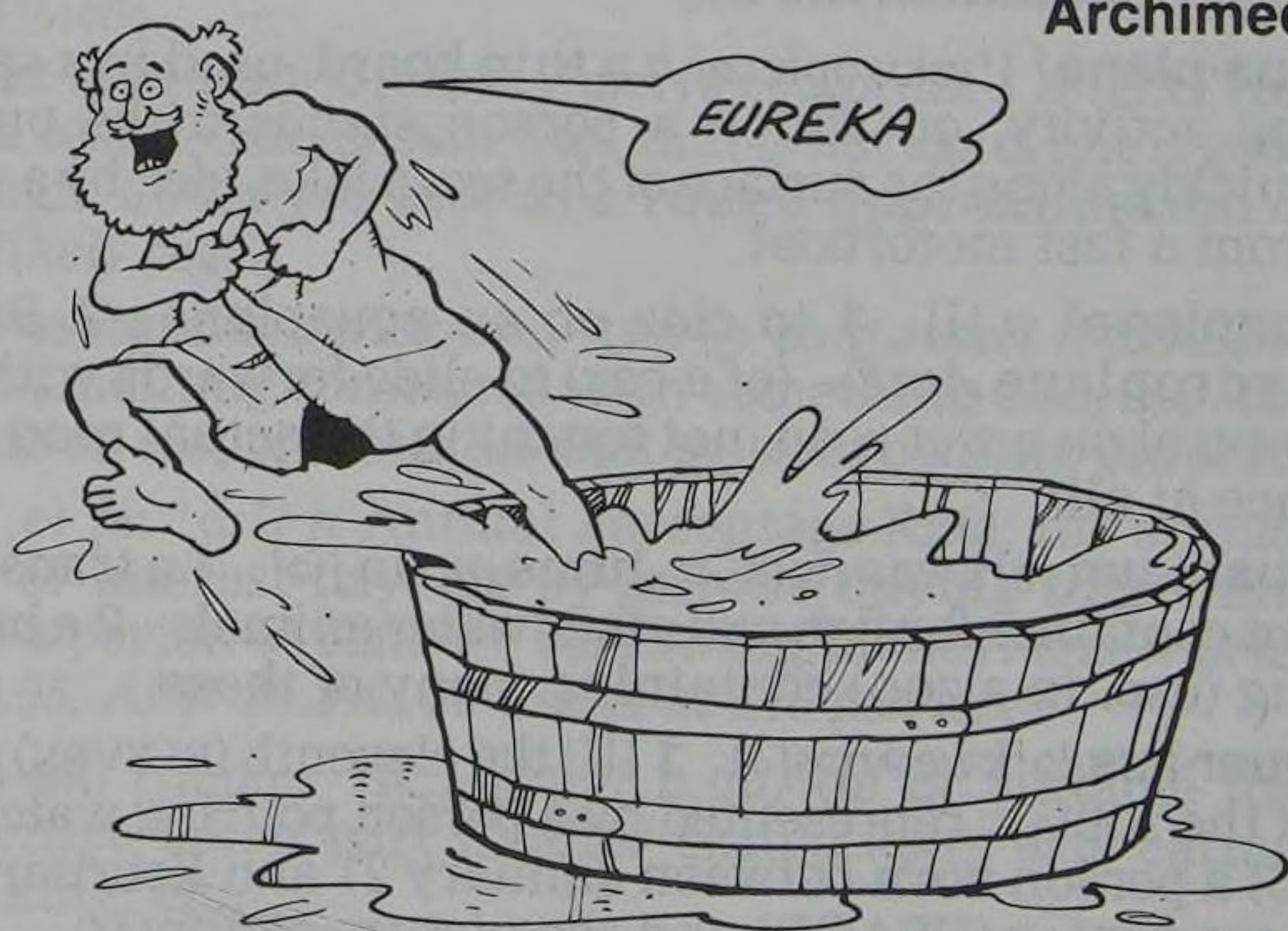
ar-che-type /'ɑ:kɪtaɪp||'ɑ:r-/ *n* [(of)] **1** the original model of something, of which others are copies: *"the House of Commons, the archetype of all the representative assemblies"* (T.B. Macaulay) **2** a perfectly typical example of something — **-typal** /'ɑ:kɪtaɪpəl, 'ɑ:ki'taɪ-||,ɑ:rki'taɪ-/ , **-typical** /,ɑ:ki'tɪpɪkəl||,ɑ:r-/ *adj*: *the archetypal wealthy American tourist* — **-typically** /kli/ *adv*

ar-chi-man-drite /,ɑ:kɪ'mændraɪt||,ɑ:r-/ *n* the head of a group of MONKS of an Eastern branch of the Christian church

The Archbishop of Canterbury



Archimedes



Ar-chi-me-des /,ɑ:ki'mɪdɪz||,ɑ:r-/ (287–212 B.C) a Greek MATHEMATICIAN and INVENTOR who established the rules for measuring DENSITY. He is believed to have discovered these rules while in his bath, and to have jumped out of his bath and run through the streets with no clothes on shouting "Eureka! Eureka!" ("I have found it! I have found it!").

Archimedes' prin-ci-ple /,ɑ:.. '.... / *n* [the] the principle which states that an object in a liquid is kept up by a force equal to the weight of the displaced (DISPLACE) liquid

ar-chi-pel-a-go /,ɑ:kɪ'peləgəu||,ɑ:r-/ *n* **-goes** or **-gos** a group of small islands and the area of sea round them

ar-chi-tect /'ɑ:kɪtekt||'ɑ:r-/ *n* a person who plans new buildings and is responsible for making sure that they are built properly: *Who was the architect of St Paul's Cathedral?* | (fig.) *He was a fine politician, and many people regard him as the architect of the modern welfare state.*

ar-chi-tec-ture /'ɑ:kɪtektʃə||'ɑ:r-/ *n* [U] **1** the art and science of building, including its planning, making, and decoration **2** the style or manner of building in a particular country or period of history: *the architecture of ancient Greece* | *Gothic architecture* —see colour picture on page 227 **3** the INTERNAL arrangements of computer HARDWARE or SOFTWARE, esp. of the different parts in relation to each other —**tural** /'ɑ:kɪ'tektʃərəl||'ɑ:r-/ *adj*: *architectural plans* —**turally** *adv*: *Architecturally, Venice is very beautiful.*

ar-chi-val /ɑ:'kaɪvəl||'ɑ:r-/ *adj* of, contained in, or being archives

ar-chives /'ɑ:kaɪvz||'ɑ:r-/ *n* [P] (a place for storing) historical materials, such as old papers, letters, and reports concerning a government, family, organization, etc., kept esp. for historical interest: *an interesting old newsreel from the BBC archives* —**archive** *adj* [A]: *archive material*

ar-chi-vist /'ɑ:kɪvɪst||'ɑ:r-/ *n* a person who looks after archives

arch-way /'ɑ:tʃweɪ||'ɑ:rtʃ-/ *n* **1** a passage under an arch or arches **2** an arch over an entrance: *an archway between the two rooms*

arc-tic /'ɑ:ktɪk||'ɑ:r-/ *adj* **1** (*usu. cap.*) of or concerning the most northern part of the world **2** extremely cold: *My bedroom was arctic.* | *arctic conditions*

Arctic *n* [the] the large land mass surrounding the North Pole —compare ANTARCTIC

Arctic Cir-cle /'ɑ:ktɪk||'ɑ:r-/ [the] an imaginary line drawn round the world at a certain distance from the most northern point (the North Pole) —compare ANTARCTIC CIRCLE, and see picture at GLOBE

Arctic O-cean /'ɑ:ktɪk||'ɑ:r-/ [the] the smallest ocean in the world, at the North Pole and covered with ice all year round

arc weld-ing /'ɑ:kweldɪŋ||'ɑ:r-/ *n* [U] the joining together of pieces of metal by means of an ARC (2) of electricity

Ar-den /'ɑ:dn||'ɑ:r-/ an area in Warwickshire, England, formerly part of a large forest which was the setting for Shakespeare's play *As You Like It*

Ar-dennes /ɑ:'den||'ɑ:r-/ an area of hilly land with many trees in SE Belgium, N Luxembourg and N France where there was heavy fighting in the First and Second World Wars

ar-dent /'ɑ:dn||'ɑ:r-/ *adj* showing strong feeling or desire; eager; PASSIONATE: *an ardent supporter/admirer of the government* | *an ardent feminist* —**ly** *adv*

ar-dour *BrE* || **ardor** *AmE* /'ɑ:dn||'ɑ:r-/ *n* [U] *fml* or *lit* strong excitement or eagerness; ZEAL: *patriotic ardour* | *Her lack of enthusiasm dampened his ardour.*

ar-du-ous /'ɑ:dn||'ɑ:r-/ *adj* *fml* needing hard and continuous effort; difficult: *a long and arduous climb* | *arduous work* —**ly** *adv* —**ness** *n* [U]

are¹ /əˈ; strong ɑː/ *present tense pl. of BE*: *They are (living) here now.* | *Here we are!* —see NOT (USAGE)

are² /ɑː/ *n* a unit of area —see TABLE 2

ar-e-a /'eəriə/ *n* **1** [C;U] the size of a surface measured by multiplying the length by the width: *What's the area of your garden?* | *a room 16 square metres in area* —compare VOLUME (2) **2** [C] a part or division of the world, of a country, etc.; REGION: *There aren't any big stores in this area (of the town).* | *He's the area sales manager for southern California.* | *The new factory will be built somewhere in the London area.* **b** such a part or division having a particular character or purpose: *an area of high unemployment* | *the commercial area of a big city* | (fig.) *her lack of organization is an area of concern.* | (fig.) *She's doing brilliantly in her career, but her personal life is a disaster area.* | (fig.) *The question of who is responsible for the safety of the machinery is rather a grey area.* (=not certain) **3** [C] a particular space or surface: *There's a parking area behind the cinema.* | *a large room with a dining area at one end* **4** [C] (the range or limits of) a subject, activity, etc.: *new developments in the area of language teaching*

▷ USAGE **Area, region, and district** can all be used

when speaking about parts of the Earth's surface. **Area** is the most general word. An **area** can be small or large, and is not thought of as a fixed land division: *I find the people in this area very friendly.* A **region** is usually large, is usually part of a country, and may or may not be thought of as a fixed land division: *The south east is the richest region in England.* | *Edinburgh is in the Lothian region of Scotland.* A **district** is smaller than a **region**, and is usually a fixed land division of a country or city: *The letters SW1 stand for a postal district of London.* ◁

area code /'... ||'ɑ:r-/ *n* *AmE* a telephone CODE¹ (3). Area codes in the US and Canada contain three numbers and the middle number is always 1 or 0. Numbers beginning with the area code 800 are TOLL-FREE (=paid for by the receiver of the call).

ar-e-na /əˈrɪnə/ *n* **1** an enclosed area used for sports, public entertainments, etc.: *The circus elephants were led into the arena.* **2** a place of great activity, esp. of competition or fighting: *She entered the political arena at the age of 25.*

Ar-rendt /'eərənt/, **Han-nah** /'hænə/ (1906–75) an American political thinker, writer and teacher who was born in Germany but left in 1941 to escape the Nazis

aren't /ɑːnt||'ɑ:rənt/ *short for*: **1** are not: *They aren't here.* **2** (in questions) am not: *I'm your friend, aren't I?*

▷ USAGE There is no natural short form of **am I not?** Compare: *I am your friend, am I not? (fml)* | *I'm your friend, aren't I? (infml)* | *I'm your friend, ain't I? (nonstandard)* ◁

ar-rête /əˈret, əˈreit/ *n* *tech* a part of a mountain in the form of a long sharp edge with steep sides; RIDGE

ar-gent /'ɑ:dzənt||'ɑ:r-/ *n* [U] *poet* (the colour of) silver: *He carried an argent shield.* —**argent** *adj*

Ar-gen-ti-na /'ɑ:dzən'tɪnə||'ɑ:r-/ a country in South America, also called **the Argentine**. In 1982 Argentina and Britain fought the Falklands War. —**Argentinian** /-ˈtɪniən/ *n, adj*

Ar-gie, Argy /'ɑ:dzɪ||'ɑ:r-/ *n* *BrE derog* an Argentinian; used esp. in Britain during the Falklands War

ar-gon /'ɑ:gən||'ɑ:rgən/ *n* [U] a chemically inactive gas that is a simple substance (ELEMENT), is found in the air, and is used in some electric lights

Ar-go-na-uts /'ɑ:gənəʊts||'ɑ:r-/ in CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY, a group of strong, brave men who sailed with Jason in the ship Argo —see JASON

Ar-gos /'ɑ:gɒs||'ɑ:rgəʊs/ *tdmk* one of a group of shops in Britain, selling electrical goods and other things for the home. Argos produce a CATALOGUE which people order from, and are known for being cheaper than other shops: *the new Argos catalogue* | *I got it from Argos.*

ar-got /'ɑ:gəʊ||'ɑ:rgət/ *n* [C;U] informal speech spoken and understood by only a small group of people, esp. criminals

ar-gu-a-ble /'ɑ:gjuəbəl||'ɑ:r-/ *adj* **1** able to be supported with reasons: *an arguable theory* | *It is arguable that the government has no right to interfere in this matter.* **2** doubtful in some degree; QUESTIONABLE: *an arguable decision* —opposite **unarguable** (for 2) —**bly** *adv*: *Arguably, the criminal is a necessary member of society.*

ar-gue /'ɑ:gjuː||'ɑ:r-/ *v* **1** [I (with, over, about)] to express disagreement in words, often with strong feeling; quarrel: *Do what you are told and don't argue (with me).* | *They're always arguing about/over money.* **2** [I;T] to provide reasons for or against (something) clearly and in proper order: *We could argue this point for hours without reaching any conclusions.* | *They argued the case for a non-nuclear defence policy.* | *a well-argued speech in favour of the proposal* | *He argued for/against the proposed tax cuts.* [+that] *I would argue that/It could be argued that sending men to the moon is a waste of money.* **3** [T+obj+into/out of] to persuade (someone) by showing reasons for or against an idea or course of action, often with strong feeling: *She argued him into/out of leaving his job.* **4** [T] *fml* to show; give signs (of); INDICATE: *Her essay argued a very good grasp of the facts.* [+that] *The way he spends money argues that he is rich.* **5** **argue the toss** *BrE infml* to argue about a decision that has already been made and cannot be changed —see QUARREL (USAGE)

ar-gu-ment /'ɑ:gjʊmənt||'ɑ:r-/ *n* **1** [C] a disagreement, esp.

one that is noisy; quarrel: *They were having an argument about whose turn it was to do the cooking.* | *They got into an argument about politics.* **2** [C (for, against)] a reason given to support or disprove something: *The committee listened to all the arguments for and against the proposal.* | *The risk of heart disease is a powerful argument against smoking.* | *He made a strong/convincing argument against accepting the offer.* [+that] *the familiar argument that the cost would outweigh the benefits* **3** [U] the use of reason to decide something or persuade someone: *We should try to settle this affair by argument, not by fighting.* | *Let's say, for the sake of argument* (=in order to help in deciding or understanding something), *that the sale price will be £25: how much profit will that give us?* **4** [C] *lit* a short account of the story or subject of a book, poem, etc.; SUMMARY

ar-gu-men-ta-tive /ˌɑːɡjʊ'mentətɪv/ || ˌɑːr-/ *adj* *derog* (of a person) liking to ARGUE (1); QUARRELSOME — ~ **ly** *adv*

Argus /ˈɑːɡəs/ || ˌɑːr-/ in CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY, a many-eyed creature that Hera used as a guard and who was killed by Hermes, after which Hera put its eyes into the tail of a PEACOCK. Newspapers are sometimes called the "Argus" to suggest that they are continually awake to bring the news.

Ar-gyll /ɑːˈgaɪl/ || ˌɑːr-/ a former COUNTY in W Scotland, now part of Strathclyde REGION

a-ri-a /ˈɑːriə/ *n* a song that is sung by only one person in an OPERA or ORATORIO

ar-id /ˈærɪd/ *adj* (of land) having so little rain as to be very dry and unproductive: *the arid wastes of the Sahara* | (fig.) *arid studies that produce no new ideas* — ~ **ity** /əˈrɪdɪti/ *n* [U]

A-ri-el /ˈeəriəl/ *n* [U] *tdmk* a type of washing powder or liquid sold in Britain

A-ries /ˈeəriːz, ˈæriːz/ *n* **1** [U] the first sign of the ZODIAC, represented by a RAM (=male sheep) **2** [C] a person born between March 21 and April 20 —see ZODIAC (USAGE) and see picture at ZODIAC

a-right /əˈraɪt/ *adv fml* correctly; properly: *Have I understood you aright?*

a-rise /əˈraɪz/ *v* **arose** /əˈrəʊz/, **arisen** /əˈrɪzən/ [I] **1** [(from, out of)] to come into being or begin to be noticed; happen; appear: *Some unexpected difficulties/opportunities have arisen.* | *A strong wind arose.* | *a meeting to discuss any matters arising from the recent changes in the law* | *The bank will extend your loan, should the need arise.* (=if it becomes necessary) **2** *old use or poet* to stand up from sitting, kneeling, or lying: *"I will arise and go now, and go to Innisfree."* (W.B. Yeats) The words "Arise, Sir..." are used in the ceremony that takes place when someone is made a KNIGHT —see also DUB

Ar-is-tide /ˌæriˈstɪd/, **Jean-Ber-trand** /ʒɒn ˈbeɪtrɒn/ || ʒɑːn beɪrˈtrɑːn/ (1953–) a Haitian Roman Catholic priest who was elected president of his country in 1990 but was forced by soldiers to leave office in late 1991

ar-is-toc-ra-cy /ˌærɪˈstɒkrəsi/ || -ˈstɑːr/ *n* **1** [C+*sing./pl. v*] the people of the highest social class, esp. people from noble families who have titles of rank —see also UPPER CLASS **2** [C (of)] the finest, best, or most powerful members of any group or class: *The drivers are the aristocracy of the railwaymen's union.* **3** [U] government by people of the highest social class, esp. a class depending on birth or wealth —compare DEMOCRACY

► CULTURAL NOTE Britain has an official aristocracy of titled people, but in the US, where no aristocracy is recognized, the word is often used with humour or SARCASM. ◀

ar-is-to-crat /ˌærɪˈstɒkræt, əˈrɪ-||əˈrɪ-/ *n* a member of an aristocracy

ar-is-to-crat-ic /ˌærɪˈstɒkrætɪk, əˈrɪ-||əˈrɪ-/ *adj* of, like, or typical of an aristocrat: *an aristocratic family* | *her aristocratic manners*

Ar-i-stop-h-a-nes /ˌærɪˈstɒfənɪz/ || -ˈstɑːr/ (about 445 BC — after 388 BC) a Greek writer of plays and poems considered to be the greatest ancient writer of humorous plays

Ar-is-tot-le /ˌærɪˈstɒtl-||-tɑːtl/ (384–322 BC) a Greek PHILOSOPHER who has had great influence on Western thought

a-rith-me-tic ¹ /əˈrɪθmətɪk/ *n* [U] the science of numbers; the adding, subtracting, multiplying, etc., of numbers; calculation by numbers —compare MATHEMATICS

ar-ith-met-ic ² /ˌæriθˈmetɪk/ || also **-ical** /ɪkəl/ — *adj* of or concerning arithmetic — ~ **ally** /kli/ *adv*

a-rith-me-ti-cian /əˈrɪθməˈtɪʃən/ *n* a person who studies and understands arithmetic

ar-ith-met-ic pro-gres-sion /ˌɑːrɪθˈmetɪk ˈprɒɡresʃən/ || ˌɑːrɪθˈmetɪk ˈprɒɡresʃən/ || also **arithmetical progression** /ˌɑːrɪθˈmetɪk ˈprɒɡresʃən/ || *n* a set of numbers in order, in which a fixed number is added to each to produce the next (as in 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, ...) —compare GEOMETRIC PROGRESSION

Ar-i-zo-na /ˌæriˈzəʊnə/ || written abbrev. **AZ** a state in the SW of the USA known for its desert CLIMATE —see colour map on pages 1374-5

ark /ɑːk/ || ˌɑːrk/ *n* a large ship

Ark [the] **1** the large boat built by Noah in the Bible in which he saved his family and two of every kind of animal from the flood that covered the world —see also FLOOD **2** *out of the Ark* *infml* very old or old-fashioned: *his jacket looks as if it came out of the Ark.*

Ar-kan-sas /ˈɑːkənsəː/ || ˌɑːr-/ written abbrev. **AR** a state in S central USA —see colour map on pages 1374-5

Ark of the Cov-e-nant /ˌɑːk ɒv ðə ˈkɒvənənt/ || *n* [the] a box that represented to the Jews the presence of God and contained the laws of their religion (the TEN COMMANDMENTS)

Ark Roy-al /ˌɑːk ˈrɔɪəl/ || *n* a British Royal Navy AIRCRAFT CARRIER built in 1936 and sunk in 1941 off Gibraltar

Ark-wright /ˈɑːkraɪt/ || ˌɑːrk-/ **Sir Richard** (1732–92) an English inventor whose machine for spinning cotton replaced hand labour, making him and the factory owners very wealthy and causing widespread unemployment and anger among the workers —see also INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

Ar-ling-ton Na-tion-al Cem-e-tery /ˌɑːrlɪŋtən næʃənəl ˈsemɪtri/ || ˌɑːr-, -ˈsemɪteri/ a CEMETERY (=place where dead people are buried) in Arlington, Virginia, near Washington, D.C., where people in the armed forces or the government may be buried. John F. Kennedy is buried there and the cemetery also contains the **Tomb of the Unknown Soldier**, a building to honour soldiers who have died in wars but whose names are not known.

Ar-lott /ˈɑːlət/ || ˌɑːr-/ **John** (1914–91) a well known and much loved English cricket COMMENTATOR and writer who broadcast on radio and television over many years, becoming thought of as the "voice of cricket"

arm ¹ /ɑːm/ || ˌɑːrm/ *n* **1** either of the two upper limbs of a human being or other animal that stands on two legs: *She carried the box under her arm.* | *The soldier was wounded in the right arm.* | *He put his arm round his elderly mother and walked her to the car.* | *He took her in his arms* (=held her closely) *and kissed her.* | *They walked down the road arm in arm.* (=with arms joined) | *He's still only a babe in arms.* (=a small child needing to be carried) **2** something that is shaped like or moves like an arm: *the arm of my coat/of the chair/of a record player* | *a long narrow arm of the sea* —see picture at GLASSES **3** a part or division of a group, esp. of the military forces: *the Fleet Air Arm* (=the branch of the British Navy that uses aircraft) | *the UK arm of an international corporation* | *the company's research arm* **4** **keep someone at arm's length** to keep a safe distance away from; avoid being friendly with someone —see also ARMS, **cost an arm and a leg** (COST²), **a shot in the arm** (SHOT¹), **twist someone's arm** (TWIST¹) — ~ **less** *adj*

arm ² *v* [I;T (with)] to supply (oneself or others) with weapons or armour: *The crowd armed themselves with broken bottles.* | *The country armed (itself) in preparation for war.* —opposite **disarm** —see also ARMED; UNARMED

Ar-ma-da /ɑːˈmɑːdə/ || ˌɑːr-/ [the] a collection of armed ships sent by Spain in 1588 against England but defeated by the English navy led by Sir Francis Drake. The word is sometimes used to describe any large group of ships.

ar-ma-dil-lo /ˌɑːməˈdɪləʊ/ || ˌɑːr-/ *n* -**los** a small animal which comes from the warm parts of the Americas, covered in hard bands of bonelike shell

Ar-ma-ged-don /ˌɑːməˈɡedn/ || ˌɑːr-/ a great battle or war causing terrible destruction and bringing the end of the world (from the place, Armageddon, in the Bible, where it is said that a great battle will take place): *Millions of dollars were spent on bomb shelters and weapons ready for a nuclear Armageddon.*

Ar-magh /ˌɑːˈmɑː/ || ˌɑːr-/ **1** a town in Northern Ireland



2 a former COUNTY of Northern Ireland, now a local government DISTRICT

Ar-ma-gnac /'ɑ:məmjæk||,ɑ:rmən'jæk/ *n* [C;U] a strong alcoholic drink (BRANDY) made in SW France and usu. drunk from a small glass after a meal

ar-ma-ment /'ɑ:məmənt||'ɑ:r-/ *n* **1** [C often *pl.*] the arms and other fighting equipment of an army, navy, etc., or on a warship or military aircraft: *chemical armaments* | *the armaments industry* **2** [C often *pl.*] an armed force or the total armed forces of a country **3** [U] the act of preparing for war —compare DISARMAMENT

Ar-ma-ni /ɑ:'mɑ:ni||ɑ:r-/ , **Gior-gio** /'dʒɔ:dʒəʊ||'dʒɔ:r-/ (1935–) an Italian fashion DESIGNER whose suits are expensive and very fashionable: *smart young men in Armani suits*

ar-ma-ture /'ɑ:mətʃəʔ||'ɑ:r-/ *n* **1** the part of a GENERATOR (=a machine producing electricity) consisting of a piece of metal with wire wound around it, that goes round and round so as to produce electricity **2** a similar part in an electric motor that goes round and round so as to produce movement **3** a frame on which clay or other soft material can be put to make a figure or model

arm-band /'ɑ:mbænd||'ɑ:rm-/ *n* **1** a band of material worn round the arm to show the wearer's official position, as a sign of MOURNING, etc. **2** a band of plastic filled with air, which children wear on their arms to help them float in water while they learn to swim

arm-chair /'ɑ:mtʃeəʔ, 'ɑ:m'tʃeəʔ||'ɑ:rm-, 'ɑ:rm-/ *n* a comfortable chair with supports for the arms —see picture at CHAIR and at LIVING ROOM

armchair ² /'ɑ:mtʃeəʔ||'ɑ:rm-/ *adj* [A] *usu. derog* ready to give advice or pass judgment, but not taking an active part: *an armchair critic/revolutionary*

armed /ɑ:md||ɑ:rmd/ *adj* **1** [(with)] having or using weapons or armour: *I warn you that I am armed.* | *The police were armed with truncheons and riot shields.* | *They were convicted of armed robbery.* | *Could the situation lead to armed conflict?* (=war) | (fig.) *She came to the meeting armed with all the facts and figures to prove her case.* **2** **armed to the teeth** very heavily armed

armed forces /, ' ' / *n* [(the) P] the military forces of a country, usu. the army, navy, and air force

Ar-me-ni-a /ɑ:'mizniə||ɑ:r-/ a country in SE Europe bordering on Turkey, Iran, Georgia, and Azerbaijan; capital Yerevan; population 3,283,000 (1989) —**nian** *n, adj*

arm-ful /'ɑ:mful||'ɑ:rm-/ *n* [(of)] all that a person can hold in one or both arms: *an armful of fresh flowers*

arm-hole /'ɑ:mhəʊl||'ɑ:rm-/ *n* a hole in a shirt, coat, etc., through which the arm is put

ar-mi-stice /'ɑ:mɪstɪs||'ɑ:rm-/ *n* an agreement to stop fighting, usu. for a short time. The word is esp. used to mean the armistice that brought the end of the First World War, on November 11th 1918. —compare CEASE-FIRE, TRUCE

Armistice Day /'... ' / November 11th, celebrated as the ANNIVERSARY of the end of the First World War in 1918 —see also REMEMBRANCE DAY, VETERANS DAY

ar-mour *BrE* || **armor** *AmE* /'ɑ:məʔ||'ɑ:r-/ *n* [U] **1** strong protective metal or leather covering for the body as worn formerly in battle by fighting men and their horses: *a suit of armour* | (fig.) *He seems immovable in his opposition to our plan, but I think I detect a chink in his armour.* (=a weak point in his position) **2** strong protective metal covering on modern vehicles of war: *armour-clad warships/tanks* **3** the protective covering of some plants and animals

ar-moured *BrE* || **armored** *AmE* /'ɑ:məd||'ɑ:rməd/ *adj* **1** protected by armour: *armoured vehicles* **2** [A] having fighting vehicles protected by armour: *an armoured division*

armoured car /, ' ' / *n* **1** an armoured military vehicle, usu. with a powerful gun **2** a car protected by armour, used esp. by important people: *The president rode in an armoured car.*

ar-mour-er *BrE* || **armorer** *AmE* /'ɑ:mərəʔ||'ɑ:r-/ *n* a person who makes, repairs, and tests weapons and armour

armour plate /, ' ' || ' ' / also **armour pla-ting** /, ' ' || ' ' / *n* [U] a specially hardened metal cover used as protection for military vehicles —**armour-plated** /, ' ' || ' ' / *adj*

ar-mour-y *BrE* || **armory** *AmE* /'ɑ:məri||'ɑ:r-/ *n* a place where weapons are stored

arm-pit /'ɑ:m,pɪt||'ɑ:rm-/ *n* the hollow place under the arm at the shoulder

arms /ɑ:mz||ɑ:rmz/ *n* [P] **1** weapons of war: *The government intends to cut expenditure on arms.* | *an arms control agreement* | *They have 50,000 men under arms.* (=armed and ready to fight) | *The general called on the defeated army to lay down their arms.* (=stop fighting) | (lit) *They took up arms* (=became soldiers) *in defence of their country.* **2** a COAT OF ARMS. The word is sometimes used in the names of PUBS, such as *The Farmer's Arms.* —see also COLLEGE OF ARMS **3** **up in arms** *infml* very angry and ready to argue or fight: *The women are up in arms over/about their low rate of pay.* —see also SMALL ARMS

arms con-trol /' ' / *n* [U] the attempt by powerful countries to limit the number and kind of weapons of war owned by themselves and other countries

arms race /' ' / *n* [*usu. sing.*] a continuing struggle between two opposing countries in which each tries to produce more and better weapons of war than the other

Arm-strong /'ɑ:mstrɒŋ||'ɑ:rmstrɔ:ŋ/, **Lou-is** /'lu:ɪ/ (1900–71) an American JAZZ musician, singer, and bandleader, known esp. for the rough sound of his voice

Armstrong, Neil /ni:l/ (1930–) an American ASTRONAUT who was the first man to step on the moon in 1969. He is remembered for saying “one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind” as he first stepped onto the moon. —see colour picture on page 752

ar-my /'ɑ:mi||'ɑ:r-/ *n* [C+*sing./pl. v*] **1** a the branch of a country's military forces that is concerned with attack and defence on land: *to join the army* | *a modern well-equipped army* | *an army officer* **b** any military force trained to fight on land: *The radio station was seized by a rebel army.* **2** any large group, esp. one that is brought together for some purpose: *An army of workmen was brought in to build the stadium.* **3** **an army marches on its stomach** a phrase which is believed to have been said by Napoleon, meaning that soldiers need good food in order to walk and fight

army brat /' ' / *n* *AmE* a person whose father was in one of the armed forces, and who therefore probably moved often from place to place as a child

Arn-hem /'ɑ:nəm||'ɑ:r-/ a city in the Netherlands where British and ALLIED forces landed in the SECOND WORLD WAR and where there was a great loss of life

Ar-nold /'ɑ:nəld||'ɑ:r-/ , **Ben-e-dict** /'benɪdɪkt/ (1741–1801) an American military leader, famous for betraying (BETRAY) his country to the British during the American Revolution

Arnold, Mat-thew /'mæθju:/ (1822–88) an English poet, known for his poems such as *Dover Beach* and *The Scholar Gypsy* as well as works of criticism about literature and society

Arnold, Roseanne an American actress and COMEDIAN, formerly called Roseanne Barr, who is best known for the television programme *Roseanne* —see picture at ROSEANNE

A-road /'eɪ rəʊd/ *n* in Britain, a road (often shown in red on maps) with the letter A before its number, showing that it is an important main road but is not a full MOTORWAY

a-ro-ma /ə'rəʊmə/ *n* **1** a strong usu. pleasant smell: *the aroma of hot coffee* **2** a noticeable feeling or quality connected with a place or situation; AURA: *An aroma of mystery hung about the place.*

a-ro-ma-ther-a-py /ə,rəʊmə'therəpi/ *n* [U] a kind of treatment using special oils to MASSAGE the body. This is usu. regarded as a form of ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE.

ar-o-ma-tic /,æɪə'mætɪk/ *adj* having a strong pleasant smell: *Aromatic herbs are often used in cooking.* — ~ **ally** /kli/ *adv*

a-rose /ə'rəʊz/ *past tense of* ARISE

a-round ¹ /ə'raʊnd/ *adv* **1** esp. *AmE* from one place to another; to various places; about: *I travelled around for a few years.* | *The company is looking around for a suitable site for the factory.* | *Do you know your way around?* **2** esp. *AmE* in various places; here and there; about: *Why are all these books lying around?* | *I haven't seen him*

around lately. | **See you around!** (=I'll see you somewhere soon.) **3** esp. AmE on all sides; surrounding a centre: *a prison with high walls all around* | *The children gathered around to hear the story.* **4** in all directions from a centre: *not a single house for miles around* **5** somewhere near; in the area: *Is there anyone around?* | *I'll wait around for a while.* **6** esp. AmE so as to face the other way; round: *He turned around when he heard a noise behind him.* **7** esp. AmE moving in a circle; round: *turning around and around* **8** esp. AmE measured in a circle; round: *a tree ten feet around* **9** infml in existence or activity: *one of the best artists around* **10** **have been around** infml to have had a lot of experience of life — see ROUND³ (USAGE)

around² prep **1** esp. AmE on all sides of; all round; surrounding: *We sat around the table.* | *a long wall around the grounds* | *He had a towel wrapped around his waist.* **2** from one place to another in; to or in various parts of; about: *They walked around the town.* | *books lying around the room* | *The store has about 20 branches dotted around the country.* **3** in some place near (to); in the area of: *He lives somewhere around London.* | *There must be a bank around here somewhere.* **4** a little more or less than; about: *There were around 200 people at the meeting.* | *The price has risen to around £5000.* | *I'll be home around seven.* **5** so as to avoid or get past; round: *Let's go around the town, not through it.* | *I don't think we can get around that problem.* **6** having a centre or base in: *Their society was built around a belief in God.* — see ROUND³ (USAGE)

Around the World in Eighty Days /ˌaɪ.ə.ˈwɜːld ɪn eɪ.ɡʰtɪ ˈdeɪz/ a book by Jules Verne about an Englishman, Phileas Fogg, who travels around the world in 80 days with his ASSISTANT, Passepartout. It has been made into a successful film. — see colour picture on page 1145

a-rous-al /əˈraʊzəl/ n [U] the act of arousing or state of being aroused, esp. sexually

a-rouse /əˈraʊz/ v [T] **1** [(from)] fml to cause to wake; ROUSE: *We aroused him from his deep sleep.* **2** to cause to become active; excite: *Her behaviour aroused the suspicions of the police.* | *sexually aroused*

ar-peg-gi-o /ɑːˈpedʒiəʊ||ɑːr-/ n -gios the notes of a musical CHORD played separately in upward or downward order, rather than all at once

arr written abbrev. for: **1** arranged (by): *music by Mozart, arr Britten* **2** a arrives b arrival — compare DEP

ar-raign /əˈreɪn/ v [T (for, on)] tech to call or bring before a court of law, esp. to face a serious charge: *arraigned on a charge of manslaughter* — ~ment n [C;U]

Ar-ran /ˈærən/ an island at the mouth of the Firth of Clyde in Scotland

ar-range /əˈreɪndʒ/ v **1** [T] to put into a correct, pleasing, or desired order: *to arrange flowers in a vase* | *The books are arranged on the shelves in alphabetical order.* **2** [I+about, for; T] to make preparations (for); plan or settle in advance: *I've arranged for a taxi.* | *We must arrange about dinner.* | *Let's arrange a meeting for next Friday.* | *He called at 9.00, as arranged.* [+to-v] *We've arranged to meet them at the restaurant.* | *We've arranged with them to meet at the restaurant.* | *I've arranged for a doctor to see him/arranged for him to be seen by a doctor.* | *I've arranged with the electrician to call tomorrow.* [+wh-] *We still have to arrange where to meet.* [+that] *I've arranged that one of our representatives will meet you at the airport.* **3** [T (for)] to set out (a piece of music) in a certain way, e.g. for different instruments: *a symphony arranged for the piano*

arranged mar-riage /ˌaɪ.ə.ˈwɜːld ɪn eɪ.ɡʰtɪ ˈdeɪz/ n [C;U] a marriage where the parents choose a husband or wife for their child, usu. on grounds of religion, social class, etc. In Western society marriages are not usu. arranged by the parents of the two people involved.

ar-range-ment /əˈreɪndʒmənt/ n **1** [C usually pl.] a plan made in preparation for something: *We must make arrangements for the wedding.* | *He's in charge of the security arrangements for the president's visit.* **2** [C;U] something that has been settled or agreed on; agreement: *By (a) special arrangement with the bank, we are being allowed to borrow a further £10,000.* | *It would normally cost £500 but I'm sure we can come to some arrangement.* [+to-v] *I have an arrangement with my ex-wife to see the children every weekend.* **3** [U (of)] the act of

arranging: *the art of flower arrangement* **4** [C] something that has been put in order: *a beautiful flower arrangement* **5** [C;U] (an example of) the setting out of a piece of music in a certain way, e.g. for different instruments: *an arrangement of an old song for the piano*

ar-rant /ˈærənt/ adj [A] esp. BrE very bad; complete; extreme: *arrant nonsense*

ar-ray /əˈreɪ/ v [T] fml or lit **1** to set in order: *The enemy forces were arrayed on the opposite hill.* **2** to dress, esp. splendidly: *arrayed in all her finery*

array² n **1** [C (of);U] fml a collection or ordered group: *troops lined up in battle array* | *a baffling array of facts and figures* **2** [C;U] lit fine clothes, esp. for a special occasion **3** tech a set of numbers or signs, or of computer memory units, arranged in rows and COLUMNS — see also DISARRAY

ar-rears /əˈrɪəz||-ɪərz/ n [P] esp. BrE **1** money that is owed from the past and should have been paid: *He was in arrears with the rent.* | *The rent was two months in arrears.* **2** work that is still waiting to be done: *arrears of work that have piled up*

ar-rest¹ /əˈrest/ v [T] **1** to seize by the power of the law: *He has been arrested on suspicion of murder and taken into custody.* **2** fml to bring to an end; stop: *The treatment arrested the growth of the disease.* | *arrested development* **3** fml to catch and fix (esp. someone's attention); ENGAGE (3): *The bright lights arrested the baby's attention.*

arrest² n [C;U] the act or an example of arresting: *The police made several arrests.* | *He was soon put/placed under arrest.* — see also CITIZEN'S ARREST

ar-riv-al /əˈraɪvəl/ n **1** [U] the act of arriving: *We apologize for the late arrival of the aircraft.* | *He was rushed to hospital but was dead on arrival.* | *The arrival of the computer has revolutionized the publishing industry* **2** [C] a person or thing that has arrived: *They went out to welcome the new arrivals.* | *The new arrival was a healthy baby boy.*

ar-rive /əˈraɪv/ v [I] **1** to reach a place at the end of a journey: *We arrived home safely.* | *What time does the plane arrive in New York?* — compare DEPART (1) **2** to come to a place, esp. by arrangement: *Shall we start now, or shall we wait for the others to arrive?* **3** to be brought or delivered to a place: *Has the post arrived yet?* | *I'm still waiting for those books I ordered to arrive.* **4** to happen as expected or arranged; come: *At last the great day arrived.* | *Her baby arrived (=was born) yesterday.* **5** to win success: *They felt they had really arrived when they made their first record.*

arrive at sthg. phr v [T] to reach, esp. after much effort or thought; come to: *After many hours' talk, the committee arrived at a decision.*

ar-ro-gant /ˈærəɡənt/ adj unpleasantly proud, with an unreasonably strong belief in one's own importance, and a lack of respect for other people: *an arrogant official* | *arrogant behaviour* — ~ly adv — gance n [U] : his insufferable arrogance

ar-ro-gate /ˈærəɡeɪt/ v [T (to)] fml to take or claim (for oneself) without a proper or legal right: *Having seized power in the country, he arrogated to himself the right to change the law.*

ar-row /ˈærəʊ/ n **1** a thin straight stick with a point at one end and feathers at the other, which is shot from a BOW in fighting or sport **2** a sign like an arrow (→) used to show direction or the position of something: *The casualty department is in the east wing — take the next left and follow the arrows.*

ar-row-head /ˈærəʊhed/ n a pointed piece of stone or metal fixed to the front end of an arrow

ar-row-root /ˈærəʊrʊt, ˈærərʊt/ n [U] flour made from the root of a tropical American plant

arse¹ /ɑːs||ɑːrs/ n BrE taboo sl **1** also ass AmE— the part of the body one sits on; BOTTOM **2** also **arse-hole** /ˈɑːshəʊl||ˈɑːrs-/|| **asshole** AmE— a the ANUS b a stupid annoying person

arse² v

arse about/around phr v [I] BrE taboo sl to waste time

ar-se-nal /ˈɑːsənəl||ˈɑːr-/ n **1** a government building where weapons and explosives are made or stored **2** a store of weapons: *The police found an arsenal of knives and guns in the terrorists' hideout.*

Arsenal an English football team from North London

ar-se-nic /'ɑːsənɪk||'ɑːr-/ *n* [U] a very poisonous substance, of which one chemical form is used in medicine and for killing rats

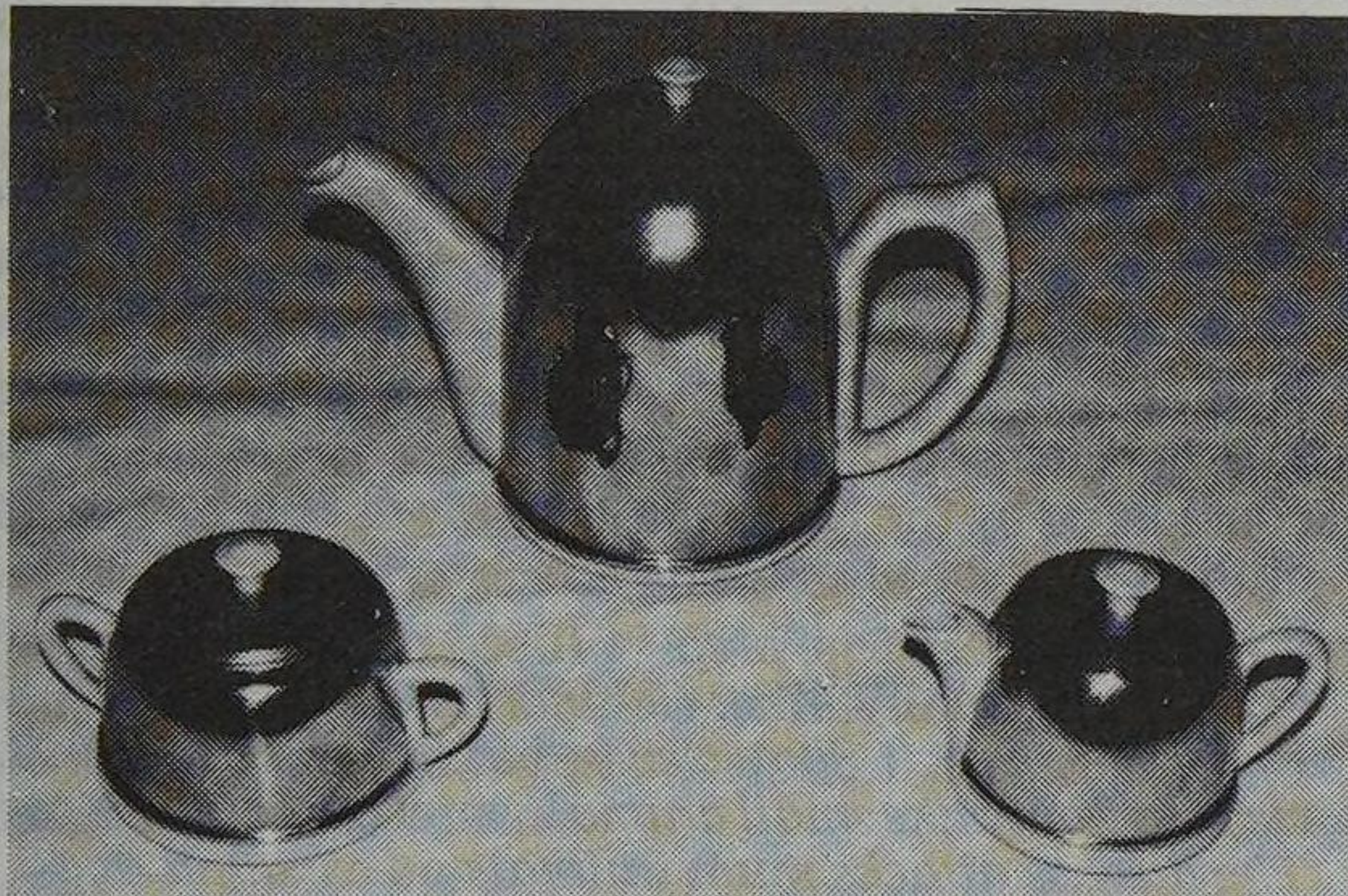
Arsenic and Old Lace /,ɑː... . . 'l-/ the title of a humorous play by Joseph Kesselring which was later made into a film

ar-son /'ɑːsən||'ɑːr-/ *n* [U] the crime of setting fire to property: *The police suspect arson.* — ~ *ist n*

art¹ /ɑːt||ɑːrt/ *n* **1** [U] the making or expression of what is beautiful, e.g. in music, literature, or esp. painting: *The museum contains some priceless works of art.* | *Dance is an exciting art form.* **2** [U] things produced by art, esp. paintings and SCULPTURE: *an exhibition of African art* **3** [C;U] skill in the making or doing of anything: *Driving a car in Central London is quite an art!* (=needs great skill) | *Television is ruining the art of conversation.* **4 art for art's sake** art is important simply because it is art, and not because it makes money or has any practical use —see also ARTS, BLACK ART, FINE ART, FINE ARTS, PLASTIC ART, POP ART

art² *v* **thou art old use or bibl** (when talking to one person) you are

art deco



art dec-o /,ɑː 'dekəʊ, ,ɑːt-||,ɑːr 'deɪkəʊ, ,ɑːrt-/ *n* [U] a style of art and decoration popular in the 1920s and 1930s in Europe and America, using esp. simple shapes and man-made materials

art di-rec-tor /'ɑː . . . / *n* the person who arranges the clothes, lighting, and scenery for a film

ar-te-fact /'ɑːtɪfækt||'ɑːr-/ *n* an ARTIFACT

Ar-te-mis /'ɑːtɪmɪs||'ɑːr-/ in CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY, the Greek goddess of the hunt and the moon (Roman name Diana)

ar-ter-i-al /ɑː'tɪəriəl||'ɑːr-/ *adj* [A] **1** (of blood) sent from the heart in the arteries: *Arterial blood is bright red.* — compare VENOUS **2** (of a road, railway, etc.) main; forming one of the chief parts of a large system: *arterial roads leading into London*

ar-ter-i-o-scle-ro-sis /ɑː,tɪəriəʊskləʃ||'rəʊsɪs||'ɑːr-/ *n* [U] a diseased condition in which the walls of the arteries become thick and hard and so prevent the easy flow of blood through the body. The condition is often called **hardening of the arteries**. —see also ATHEROSCLEROSIS

ar-te-ry /'ɑːtəri||'ɑːr-/ *n* **1** one of the tubes that carry blood from the heart to the rest of the body —compare VEIN **2** a main road, railway, river, etc.

ar-te-si-an well /ɑː,tɪziən 'wel||'ɑːr,tɪ:zən-/ *n* a well in which the water is forced to the surface by natural pressure

Ar-tex /'ɑːteks||'ɑːr-/ *n* [U] *tdmk* a substance like thick lumpy paint used for covering the CEILING and walls inside a house

art-ful /'ɑːtfəl||'ɑːr-/ *adj* cleverly deceitful; CUNNING: *He's very artful and usually succeeds in getting what he wants.* — ~ *ly adv* — ~ *ness n* [U]

Artful Dodg-er /,ɑː... 'l-/ [*the*] a character from the book *Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens. He is a young thief (PICKPOCKET) who is very successful at stealing from people and not getting caught

art gal-le-ry /'ɑː... / *n* a building in which works of art are put on show to the public, either for sale or purely for them to be admired or studied

ar-thri-tis /ɑː'θraɪtɪs||'ɑːr-/ *n* [U] a serious, often long-lasting disease causing pain and swelling in the joints of the body —**tic** /ɑː'θrɪtɪk||'ɑːr-/ *adj, n*

Ar-thur /'ɑːθəˈr||'ɑːr-/ a LEGENDARY king of Britain —see ARTHURIAN LEGEND —**Arthurian** /ɑː'θjuəriən||'ɑːr'θuə-/ *adj*: *Arthurian literature*

Arthur, Chester (1830–86) the president of the US from 1881 to 1885

Arthur An-der-son /,ɑː... 'l-/ a large international ACCOUNTANCY firm

Arthur Daley /,ɑːθə 'deɪli/ a character in the humorous British television SERIES *Minder*, who is dishonest but also likeable. He is a used-car salesman who also buys and sells other goods, including stolen goods, without much success.

Ar-thu-ri-an Le-gend /ɑː,θjuəriən 'ledʒənd||'ɑːr,θuə-/ stories about Arthur, who became king of England when he pulled out the sword in the stone (Excalibur) which no one except the king could do. His court at Camelot was famous for bravery, CHIVALRY, ROMANTIC love, and magic which was practised esp. by the MAGICIAN Merlin, and the SORCERESS Morgan le Fay. Here, at a round table, sat the bravest and most noble KNIGHTS in the land (the KNIGHTS OF THE ROUND TABLE), Sir Galahad, Sir Lancelot, Sir Bevidere, and others. England and Arthur's power began to fail when he discovered the love between his wife, Guinevere, and his best friend, Lancelot. Then began the long search for the Holy Grail (=the wine cup at Christ's last meal) which was finally found and brought back by Galahad. Arthur's strength returned and he went into battle to save England from Mordred whom he killed, but Arthur himself was very seriously wounded. He gave Excalibur to Bevidere and ordered him to throw it into a lake. The hand of the Lady of the Lake came out of the water, caught the sword, and took it under, then three women arrived on a boat and took Arthur to his final resting place at Avalon. It is said that Arthur will return if England is ever in danger again.

ar-tic /ɑː'tɪk||'ɑːr-/ *n* *BrE infml* an articulated (ARTICULATE² (3)) lorry

ar-ti-choke /'ɑːtɪtʃəʊk||'ɑːr-/ *n* [C;U] **1** also **globe artichoke**— a plant whose leafy flower is eaten as a vegetable. It is thought of as a DELICACY, and is quite difficult to eat because of its shape **2** also **Jerusalem artichoke**— a plant whose potato-like root is eaten as a vegetable —see picture at VEGETABLE

ar-ti-cle¹ /'ɑːtɪkəl||'ɑːr-/ *n* **1** a particular or separate thing or object, esp. one of a group: *an article of clothing* | *The burglars took no articles of value.* **2** a separate piece of writing on a particular subject in a newspaper, magazine, etc., that is not FICTION: *an article on the new football manager/on the Chinese way of life* **3** a complete separate part in a legal agreement, CONSTITUTION, etc. **4 tech** a word used with a noun to show whether the noun refers to a particular example of something (the **definite article** — **the** in English) or to a general or not already mentioned example of something (the **indefinite article** — **a** or **an** in English)

article² *v* [T (to, with)] to place under ARTICLES: *I am articulated to a firm of solicitors.*

articled clerk /,ɑː... 'l-/ *n* a person training to be a lawyer in England and Wales who has taken some of his or her examinations and works for two years for a trained lawyer to learn how the law works in practice. Articled clerks are now usu. called **trainee solicitors**

ar-ti-cles /'ɑːtɪkəlz||'ɑːr-/ *n* [P] a written agreement in law between an employer and someone learning a profession or job

Articles of Con-fed-e-ration /,ɑː... . . . 'l-/ [*the*+P] the agreement drawn up in 1781 by the 13 original colonies, (COLONY) of the US which served as the basic law for the government until the US Constitution was agreed upon in 1788

ar-tic-u-late¹ /ɑː'tɪkjʊlət||'ɑːr-/ *adj* **1** expressing or able to express thoughts and feelings clearly and effectively: *a very articulate child* **2** (of speech) having clear separate sounds or words —opposite **inarticulate**; compare INTEL-LIGIBLE **3 tech** having joints: *Insects are articulate animals.* — ~ *ly adv* — ~ *ness n* [U]

ar-tic-u-late² /ɑː'tɪkjʊləɪt||'ɑːr-/ *v* **1** [T] to express thoughts and feelings clearly: *He finds it very difficult to articulate his distress.* **2** [I;T] to speak or pronounce, esp. clearly and carefully **3** [T] to unite by joints that allow movement: *The bones of our fingers are articulated.* | *An*

articulated vehicle/lorry/bus can turn corners more easily. —see picture at TRUCK

ar-tic-u-la-tion /ɑːˈtɪkjəˈleɪʃən/ *n* 1 [U] the production of speech sounds: *clear articulation* 2 [U] the expression of thoughts and feelings in words 3 [C] *tech* a joint, esp. in a plant

ar-ti-fact . **arte-** /ˈɑːtɪfækt/ *n* an object made by human work, esp. a tool, weapon, or decorative object that has special historical interest: *an exhibition of ancient Egyptian artifacts*

ar-ti-fice /ˈɑːtɪfɪs/ *n* *fm* 1 [C] a clever trick: *The use of mirrors in a room is an artifice to make the room look larger.* 2 [U] clever skill; CUNNING

ar-tif-i-cer /ɑːˈtɪfɪsə/ *n* 1 *lit* a skilled workman 2 a naval or military MECHANIC

ar-ti-fi-cial /ˌɑːtɪˈfɪʃəl/ *adj* 1 made by humans, esp. as a copy of something natural: *This drink contains no artificial flavouring or colouring.* | *artificial flowers* | *artificial silk* 2 lacking true feelings; insincere: *She welcomed me with an artificial smile.* 3 happening as a result of human action, not through a natural process: *High import taxes give their homemade goods an artificial advantage in the market.* — *~ly adv*: *Government subsidies have kept the price of food artificially low.* — *~ity* /ˌɑːtɪfɪʃiˈæləti/ *n* [U]

artificial in-sem-i-na-tion /ˌɑːtɪʃiəl ɪnˈseɪnəʃən/ *n* [U] the process of putting a male seed into a female animal or human, with an instrument rather than naturally. Women who find it difficult to become PREGNANT can be treated by using artificial insemination. —see also AID

artificial in-tel-li-gence /ˌɑːtɪʃiəl ɪnˈtelɪɡəns/ *n* [U] also AI— a branch of computer science which aims to produce machines that can understand, make judgments, etc., in the way that humans do

artificial res-pi-ra-tion /ˌɑːtɪʃiəl ˈrespiˈreɪʃən/ *n* [U] also **mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, kiss of life** the forcing of air into and out of the lungs of a person who has stopped breathing by blowing into the mouth —compare CPR

ar-til-le-ry /ɑːˈtɪləri/ *n* 1 [U] large guns, esp. on wheels or fixed in one place, e.g. on a ship or in a fort 2 [*the*+*S*+*sing./pl. v*] the part of the army that uses these weapons

ar-ti-san /ˈɑːtɪzən/ *n* someone who does skilled work with their hands; CRAFTSMAN

ar-tist /ˈɑːtɪst/ *n* 1 a person who produces works of art, esp. paintings or drawings 2 an inventive and skilled worker: *He's no ordinary baker — he's an artist.* 3 an ARTISTE 4 (*in comb.*) *fm* someone who is skilled in a particular activity, esp. a bad one: *a rip-off artist*

ar-tiste /ɑːˈtɪst/ *n* a professional singer, actor, dancer, etc., who performs in a show

ar-tis-tic /ɑːˈtɪstɪk/ *adj* 1 [*no comp.*] of, concerning, or typical of art or artists: *the artistic temperament* 2 *apprec* having or showing inventive skill and imagination in art: *He's very artistic.* | *an artistic flower arrangement* — *~ally* /kli/ *adv*: *My daughter is artistically inclined.*

art-ist-ry /ˈɑːtɪstri/ *n* [U] *apprec* inventive imagination and ability; artistic skill: *the artistry of the violinist*

art-less /ˈɑːtləs/ *adj* simple and natural, without any deceit or insincerity: *artless grace* | *an artless village girl* — *~ly adv* — *~ness n* [U]

art nou-veau /ˌɑː nuːˈvəʊ, ˌɑːt-/, *n* [U] a style of art and decoration common at the end of the 19th century in Europe and America, using flowing lines and plant forms. In Britain, art nouveau is connected esp. with the work of Aubrey Beardsley, Charles Rennie Mackintosh, and William Morris.

arts /ɑːts/ *n* [*the*+*P*] 1 also **humanities** || **arts and letters** *AmE* — those subjects of study that are not considered to be part of science, such as history and languages, esp. as taught at a university: *an arts graduate* —see also BA, MA, LIBERAL ARTS 2 art, esp. the FINE ARTS: *Should the government provide money to support the*

arts? | Timothy Renton, the Arts Minister

arts and crafts /ˌɑːts ˈɑːnd ˈkrɑːfts/ *n* [P] the arts that are concerned with making ordinary things by hand, such as POTTERY, weaving, furniture-making, etc.

Arts Coun-cil /ˈɑːts ˈkaʊn-səl/ [*the*] an organization in Britain which is supported by the government and provides financial help for many different organizations involved in the theatre, art, music, the cinema, etc.

art thea-ter /ˈɑːt ˈθiːə-tər/ *n* *AmE* a cinema which shows mainly foreign films or films which were made by independent producers rather than big companies

art-y /ˈɑːti/ *adj* || *usu.* **art-sy** /ˈɑːtsi/ *AmE adj* often *derog* trying to appear artistic: *arty lighting* | *photography* — *~iness n* [U]

art-y-craft-y /ˌɑːti ˈkrɑːfti/ *BrE* || **art-sy-craft-sy** /ˌɑːtsi ˈkrɑːftsi/ *AmE adj* *usu.* *derog* arty in a simple or country style: *They're a very arty-crafty couple — she makes clothes and he's a potter.*

arty-far-ty /ˌɑːti ˈfɑːti/ || *usu.* **art-sy-fart-sy** /ˌɑːtsi ˈfɑːtsi/ *AmE adj* *fm* *derog* arty

A-ry-an /ˈeəriən/ *n, adj* (of or concerning) a person from Northern Europe, esp. one with fair hair and blue eyes, considered by the Nazis in Germany as being a member of the best race of people

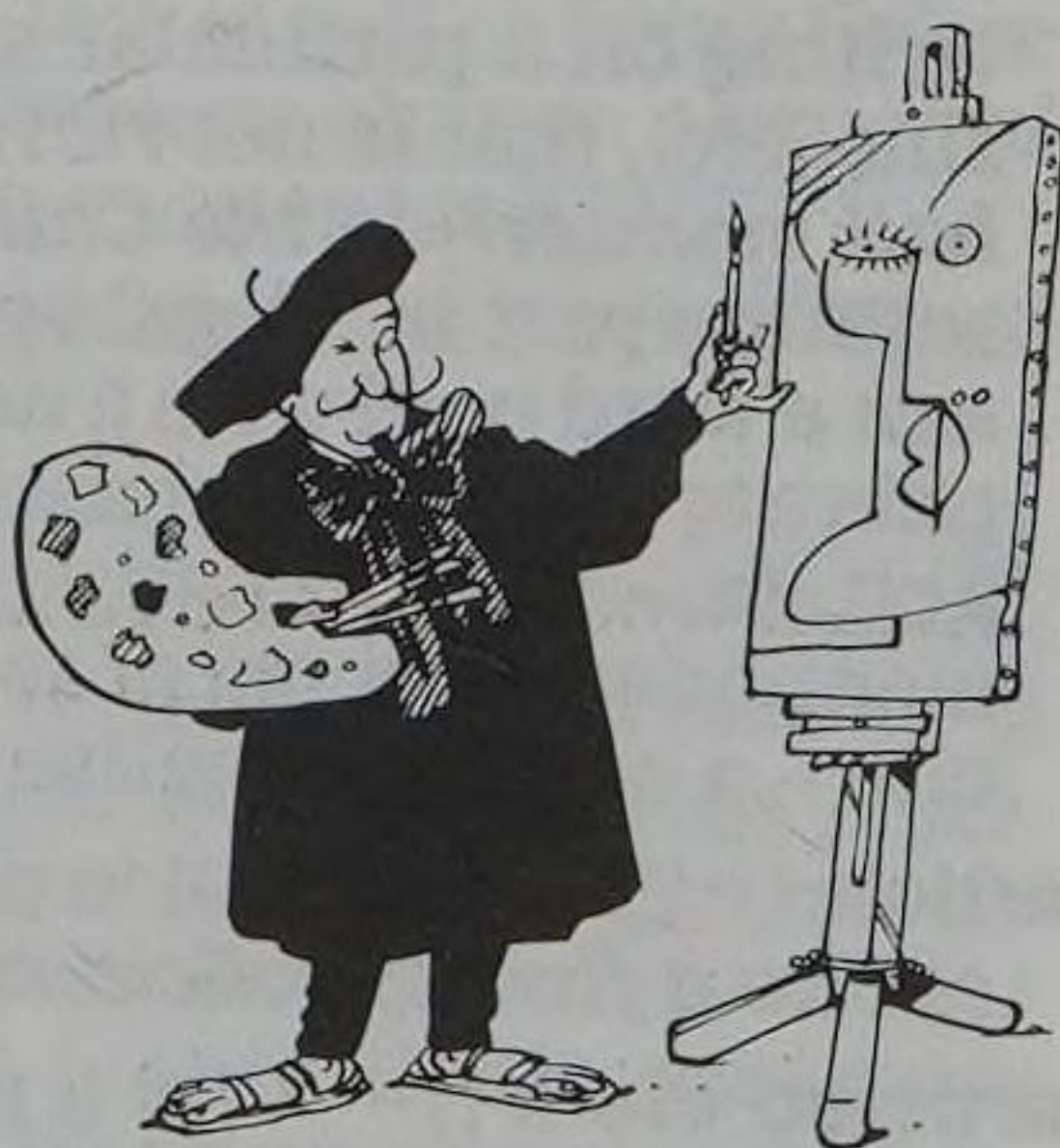
as ¹ /əz; strong æz/ *adv, prep* 1 (used in comparisons and examples) equally; like: *He's not as old as me.* | *He's as strong as an ox.* | *She's clever, but her brother is just as clever.* | *I only like small animals, such as cats and dogs.* 2 in the condition of; when considered as being: *I like her as a person, but I don't think much of her as a writer.* | *He works as a farmer.* | *This is regarded as (=thought to be) his best film.* | *She was dressed as a man.* | *Speaking as a teacher, I am in favour of these reforms.* | *His talents as a film actor were soon recognized.* | *Several businesses went bankrupt as a result of the oil crisis.* —see LIKE² (USAGE)

as ² *conj* 1 (used in comparisons): *She doesn't run as fast as she used to.* | *He works in the same office as my sister.* | *I was as surprised as anyone when they offered me the job.* (=no one was more surprised than me) | *Two is to four as four is to eight.* 2 in the way or manner that: *Do as I say!* | *He was late, as usual.* | *David, as you know (=and you know this), is a photographer.* | *As I said in my last letter, I am taking the exam in July.* 3 while; when: *He saw her as he was getting off the bus.* | *As the election approached, the violence got worse.* 4 because: *As she has no car, she can't get there easily.* 5 though: *Improbable as it seems, it's true.* | *Tired as I was, I tried to help them.* | (*esp. AmE*) *As popular as he is* (=even though he is popular) *the President has not been able to get his own way on every issue.* 6 (with *so* or *such*, showing a result): *so cold as to make swimming impossible* | *such an expression on his face as left no doubt of his decision* —see also *so*¹, *SUCH*¹ 7 (showing a purpose): *He ran away so as not to be caught.* 8 **as against** in comparison with: *Our profits this year amount to £20,000 as against £15,000 last year.* 9 **as for** sometimes *derog* (used when starting to talk about a new subject, connected with what came before) when we speak of; concerning: *You can have a bed; as for him, he'll have to sleep on the floor.* 10 **as if/though**: a as it would be if (something were true): *I couldn't move my legs. It was as if they were stuck to the floor.* | *Why doesn't she buy us a drink? It isn't as if she had no money.* (=she has plenty of money) b in a way that suggests that (something is true): *He shook his head as if to say "don't trust her".* | *We've missed the bus. It looks as if (=it seems) we'll have to walk.* c (showing a strong negative): *"He's gone." "As if I cared!"* (=I don't care at all). 11 **as it is**: a in reality; in the situation that actually exists: *We had hoped to finish it today, but as it is we probably won't finish until tomorrow.* b already: *Don't say anything else; you're in enough trouble as it is.* 12 **as it were** as one

art nouveau



A Lalique vase



artist

might say; in a sort of way: *He is, as it were, a modern Sherlock Holmes.* **13 as of/from** starting from (the time stated): *As of today, you are in charge of the office.* **14 as to:** a (used esp. when speaking of arguments and decisions) on the subject of; concerning: *He's very uncertain as to whether it's the right job for him.* **b** according to; by: *correctly placed as to size and colour* **15 as yet fml** (with negatives) until now: *I have received no answer from them as yet.* —see also **as long as** (LONG²), **as often as not** (OFTEN), and **so far**

▷ **USAGE** In comparisons, you can use **as** or **so** after **not**: *He's not as/so old as I am.* Otherwise use **as**: *She's as pretty as her sister.* In *AmE* the first **as** in such comparisons is sometimes omitted: *He's old as the hills.* | *She turned red as a beet.* ◀

ASA /,ei es 'ei/ *abbrev. for* ADVERTISING STANDARDS AUTHORITY

asap /,ei es ei 'pi:, 'eisæp/ *abbrev. for:* as soon as possible

as-bes-tos /æs'bestəs, æz-/ *n* [U] a soft grey mineral that is used as a building material (esp. when made into solid sheets against fire and heat) and for other industrial purposes, such as protecting things. In recent years asbestos used in building has been found to be harmful to humans.

as-cend /ə'send/ *v* [I;T] *often fml* to climb; go, come, or move from a lower to a higher level: *The stairs ascended in a graceful curve.* | *He ascended the stairs.* | *Victoria ascended the throne* (=became queen) *in 1837.* | *an ascending scale of (musical) notes* —opposite **descend**

as-cen-dan-cy, **-dency** /ə'sendənsi/ *n* [U (over, in)] a position of power, influence, or control: *He slowly gained ascendancy over/in the group.*

as-cen-dant¹, **-dent** /ə'sendənt/ *n* **in the ascendant** having a controlling influence: *During this period, the radical wing of the party was in the ascendant.*

ascendant², **-dent** *adj fml* **1** rising **2** greater in influence: *ascendant power*

as-cen-sion /ə'senʃən/ *n* [U] *fml* the process of ascending

Ascension Day /-...-/ *n* [C;U] a Christian holy day on the Thursday 40 days after Easter, when Christians remember Christ's ascent to heaven (**the Ascension**)

as-cent /ə'sent/ *n* **1** [C;U] the act or process of going up: *We made a successful ascent of the mountain.* | (fig.) *the ascent of man from his original state to modern civilization* **2** [C] a way up; upward slope, path, etc.: *a steep ascent* —opposite **descent**

as-cer-tain /,æsə'teɪn||, æsər-/ *v* [T] *fml* to discover (the truth about something); to make certain: *to ascertain the facts* [+that] *I ascertained that he was dead.* [+wh-] *The police are trying to ascertain exactly who was at the party.* —~able *adj*

as-cet-ic /ə'setɪk/ *n, adj* (a person) avoiding physical pleasures and comforts, generally for religious reasons: *the ascetic life of Buddhist monks* —~ally /kli/ *adv* —~ism /ə'setɪsɪzəm/ *n* [U]

ASCII /'æski/ *n* [U] American Standard Code for Information Interchange; a set of 128 letters, numbers, etc., used for easy exchange of information between a computer and other DATA PROCESSING machinery: *in ASCII format* —see also EBCDIC

as-cot /'æskɒt||-kət/ *n* *AmE* for CRAVAT

Ascot see ROYAL ASCOT

as-cribe /ə'skraɪb/ *v*

ascribe sthg. to sthg./sbdy. *phr v* [T] to believe (something) to be the result or work of: *He ascribes his success to luck.* | *This song is often ascribed to Bach.* —~cribable *adj* [F+to]

As-da /'æzdə/ *tdmk* one of a group of large SUPERMARKETS in Britain which sell food and clothes, usu. at low prices

ASEAN /'æsi,æn/ Association of South-East Asian Nations; an association consisting of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Brunei, which was formed in 1967 and works for social, political, and economic success in SE Asia: *the ASEAN countries* | *throughout the ASEAN region*

a-sep-tic /eɪ'septɪk, ə-/ *adj tech* (of a wound or its covering) free from bacteria; clean

a-sex-u-al /eɪ'sekʃuəl/ *adj* **1** without sex or sexual organs **2** having no interest in sexual relations; without

sexuality —~ly *adv* : to reproduce asexually —~ity /,eɪsekʃu'ælɪti/ *n* [U]

As-gard /'æsgɑ:d||-ɑ:rd/ in Norse MYTHOLOGY, the home of the gods which consisted of beautiful, rich palaces and halls —see also VALHALLA

ash¹ /æʃ/ also **ashes** *pl.* — *n* [U] **1** the soft grey powder that remains after something has been burnt: *cigarette ash* | *The house burnt to ashes.* —see also **ASHES** **2 ashes to ashes, dust to dust** a phrase used as part of a Christian prayer at a funeral, usu. spoken as the dead person is about to be buried

ash² *n* [C;U] (the hard wood of) a forest tree common in Britain and throughout North America

ASH /æʃ/ *abbrev. for* Action on Smoking and Health; a British organization which is opposed to the practice of smoking: *A spokesperson from ASH called for higher taxes on tobacco.*

a-shamed /ə'ʃeɪmd/ *adj* [F] **1** [(of)] feeling shame or guilt because of something done: *You ought to be ashamed of yourself/your behaviour.* | *He was ashamed of having lied to her.* [+that] *He was ashamed that he had lied.* [+to-v] *Their disgraceful behaviour made me ashamed to be British!* **2** [(of)] feeling foolish or uncomfortable because of something: *He was ashamed of his dirty old clothes.* | *You shouldn't worry about failing the exam — it's nothing to be ashamed of.* **3** [+to-v] unwilling to do something because of fear that it might bring shame: *I was too ashamed to tell her I had failed.* —~ly /ə'ʃeɪmdli/ *adv*

ash-can /'æʃkæn/ *n* *AmE* old fash a DUSTBIN

Ash-croft /'æʃkrɒft||-ɔ:ft/, **Dame Peg-gy** /'pegi/ (1907–91) a well-loved English actress who acted in many Shakespeare plays and in films such as *A Passage to India*

Ash-down /'æʃdaʊn/, **Paddy** (1941–) a British MP and the leader of the Liberal Democrats from 1988. It is often mentioned that he was once a COMMANDO in the Royal Marines.

Ashe /æʃ/, **Arthur** (1943–93) an American tennis player who became the first black person to win at Wimbledon, in 1975

ash-en /'æʃən/ *adj* of the colour of ash; pale grey: *His ashen face showed how shocked he was.*

ash-es /'æʃɪz/ *n* [P] the remains of a dead body after it has been cremated (CREMATE): *Her ashes were scattered over the sea.*

Ashes *n* [the+P] the name given to the competition between the English and Australian cricket teams: *England have retained the Ashes for the third year running.*

Ash-ke-na-zy /,æʃkə'nɑ:zi/, **Vlad-i-mir** /'vlædɪmɪrɪ/ (1937–) a pianist and CONDUCTOR born in the Soviet Union, who came to live in England and then Iceland in the 1960s. He was musical director of the Royal Philharmonic in London from 1987.

Ash-ley /'æʃli/, **Lau-ra** /'lɔ:rə/ (1926–85) a Welsh DESIGNER of dress materials, wall-coverings and clothes in a pretty Victorian style usu. with flowers. She started a chain of shops in Britain under her own name in the 1960s which later became successful in many other countries. —see also LAURA ASHLEY

Ash-mo-le-an Mu-se-um /æʃ,məʊliən mju:'zi:əm/ [the] an important MUSEUM of ARCHAEOLOGY, paintings, and silver at the University of Oxford

a-shore /ə'ʃɔ:ɪ/ *adv* on, onto, or to the shore: *Passengers may go ashore at Kingston.*

ash-ram /'æʃrəm/ *n* **1** a place where a Hindu holy man lives alone **2** a house where people live together practising Hinduism. They are often connected with the HIPPIE movement of the 1960s and 1970s.

Ash-ton /'æʃtən/, **Fred-e-rick** /'fredərɪk/ (1904–88) an English dancer and CHOREOGRAPHER who was director of the Royal Ballet from 1963 to 1970. He helped to make BALLET more popular.

ash-tray /'æʃtreɪ/ *n* a small dish for tobacco ash —see picture at TRAY

Ash Wednes-day /, -'.../ *n* [C;U] the first day of Lent, when some Christians put ashes on their foreheads as a sign of PENITENCE

ash-y /'æʃi/ *adj* **1** covered with ash **2** grey; ASHEN

A-sia /'eɪfə, -ʒə||-ʒə, -ʃə/ a large land mass (CONTINENT),

which includes the **Middle East**, the **Far East**, and part of the former USSR

Asia Minor /, ɪˌ ˈ n/ the historic name for part of W Asia between the Black Sea on the N, the Mediterranean Sea on the S, and the Aegean Sea on the W, and which now forms most of Turkey

A-sian /ˈeɪʃən, ˈeɪzən/ also **A-si-at-ic** /ˌeɪʃiˈætɪk-, ˌeɪzi-, ˌeɪzi-/ *n, adj* (a person who comes from or whose parents come) from Asia. In Britain this usu. means from India, Pakistan, or Bangladesh. In the US, it usu. means a person from Japan, China, Korea, Vietnam, etc.

Asian flu /, ɪˌ ˈ n/ [U] a variety of INFLUENZA (=flu) which spread from Asia to become a world wide EPIDEMIC in 1957

a-side /əˈsaɪd/ *adv* **1** to the side: *She stepped aside to let them pass.* | (fig.) *Let's leave that problem aside for the moment.* **2** **aside from** esp. AmE **a** except for: *Everything was quiet, aside from the occasional sound of a car in the distance.* **b** as well as: *I didn't accept the job because it was badly paid and aside from that, it wasn't very interesting.*

aside *n* **1** words spoken by an actor to those watching a play, and not intended to be heard by the other characters in the play **2** a remark in a low voice not intended to be heard by everyone present **3** a remark made or story told during a speech but which is not part of the main subject

As-i-mov /ˈæsɪmɒv/ *Isaac* (1920–92) an American scientist and writer, born in the USSR, best known for his SCIENCE FICTION stories

as-i-nine /ˈæsɪnaɪn/ *adj* extremely foolish; stupid: *What an asinine remark!*

ask /ɑːsk/ *v* **1** [I;T (about)] to request (information) from (someone); put a question to (someone), or call for an answer to (a question): *She asked about his new job.* | *"Have you seen my pen?" she asked.* | *Don't ask so many questions.* | *"Where's Tom?" "Don't ask me!"* (=I don't know) | *"What crazy scheme has he got in mind now?" "You may well ask!"* (=That is a good question because it certainly is something crazy) | *"I think he likes her."* | *"If you ask me, he's in love."* | *"Do you know of a good dentist?" "No. You'll have to ask around."* (=ask a lot of people) [+wh-] *The committee asked whether the minister knew about these facts.* [+obj+wh-] *Ask him where to go/who he is/if he'd like a drink.* | *Might I ask what you are doing in my bedroom?* [+obj(i)+obj(d)] *Ask him his name.* **2** [I;T (for)] to make a request for (something) or to (someone): *If you need any help, just ask.* | *She asked (me) for a drink.* | *He asked my advice.* | *They asked permission (to go).* [+to-v] *I asked to see the manager.* [+obj+to-v] *She asked him to wake her at 6 o'clock.* [+that] (fml) *He asked that they (should) be allowed to leave.* | *She asked him if he would lend her his car.* | *I think the job's yours for the asking.* (=if you show that you want it) [+obj(i)+obj(d)] *Can I ask you a favour?* (=ask you to do something for me) *I'm not asking the world,* (=asking for something unreasonable) *I only want five minutes of your time.* —see ORDER (USAGE), REQUEST (USAGE) **3** [T (for, of)] to expect or demand (something) from someone: *They're asking a lot of money for their house.* | *You're asking a lot/too much (of them) if you expect them to work at the weekend.* **4** [T (to, for)] to invite: *I've asked some friends to tea/for dinner.* | *I asked her in/up/down for a drink.* | *He wanted to ask her out* (=to go out with her socially), *but he didn't have the courage to do it.* [+obj+to-v] *Let's ask them to stay for the weekend.* | *"Are you going to the party?" "No, I haven't been asked."* **5** **Ask, and it shall be given you** quote a phrase from the Bible, now often used humorously

▷ **USAGE** Compare **ask**, **inquire**, **question**, and **interrogate**. **Ask** is the usual verb for questions: *"Where do you live?" he asked.* | *He asked a question.* **Inquire** (or **enquire**) has the same meaning, but is more formal, and is not followed by a noun or pronoun object: *"Where do you live?" he inquired.* | *He inquired where they lived.* To **question** a person is to ask them many questions, and to **interrogate** suggests that the person is being held by force and asked questions which they are unwilling to answer. <

ask after sbdy. *phr v* [T] to ask about the health of; ask for news of: *"My mother asked after you."* | *"How kind of her!"*

ask for sthg. *phr v* [T] *infml* to behave in a way that is likely to bring (a bad result): *Letting the children play*

with those matches was just asking for trouble! —compare **HEAD**² for

a-skance /əˈskæns, əˈskɑːns/ *adv* **look askance** (at) to look (at) or regard with disapproval or distrust

a-skew /əˈskjuː/ *adv* not properly straight: *The soldier's cap was slightly askew.*

asking price /ˈ ˈ n/ the price that a seller asks for his/her goods: *Did you get the asking price for your house?*

a-slant /əˈslɑːnt/ *adj, adv* [F] at an angle; not straight or level

a-sleep /əˈsliːp/ *adj* [F] **1** sleeping: *He was sound/fast asleep.* (=completely asleep) —opposite **awake** **2** (of an arm or leg that has been in one position too long) unable to feel; NUMB —see also **go to sleep** (SLEEP¹) **3** **fall asleep:** **a** to go into a state of sleep **b** *euph* to die

ASLEF /ˈæzleɪ/ the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen; the smaller of two British TRADE UNIONS which represent people who work on the railways —see also **NUR**

A/S lev-el /, ɪˌ ˈ n/ **1** [U] a middle standard of examination in British schools from 1989 onwards, for pupils who have taken GCSEs and wish to study a wider range of subjects than is possible at A LEVEL **2** [C] an examination of this standard in a particular subject

asp /æsp/ *n* a small poisonous snake of N Africa. Cleopatra is believed to have killed herself with an asp.

as-par-a-gus /əˈspærəɡəs/ *n* [U] a plant whose young green stems are eaten as a vegetable and thought of as a DELICACY

ASPCA /, eɪ es ˌ pi sɪz ˈ eɪ/ [the] the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals; a CHARITY which looks after animals, esp. unwanted pets, and tries to find homes for them

as-pect /ˈæspekt/ *n* **1** [C (of)] a particular side of a many-sided situation, idea, plan, etc.: *The training programme covers every aspect of the job.* | *The rise in violent crime is one of the more worrying aspects of the current situation.* **2** [C] the direction in which a window, room, front of a building, etc., faces: *The house has a south-facing aspect.* **3** [C;U] *lit* appearance: *a man melancholy in aspect* **4** [C;U] *tech* (in grammar) the particular form of a verb which shows whether the action that is described is a continuing action or an action that happens always, repeatedly, or for a moment: *"He sings" differs from "He is singing" in aspect.*

As-pel /ˈæspəl/, **Mi-chael** /ˈmaɪkəl/ (1933–) a British television host and personality who started as a news reader before getting his own talk show

as-pen /ˈæspən/ *n* a kind of tree which is common in the American Southwest

as-per-i-ty /æˈspɜːɪti, ə-/ *n* [C;U] *fml* (an example of) roughness or severity, esp. in speech, manner, or weather: *He answered our questions with some asperity.* | *the asperities of a Russian winter*

as-per-sion /əˈspɜːʃən, -ʒən/ *n* *fml* or *humor* an unkind remark or unfavourable judgment: *Are you casting aspersions on* (=raising doubts about) *my ability to drive?*

as-phalt /ˈæsfælt/ *n* [U] a black sticky material that is firm when it hardens, used for the surface of roads — **asphalt** *v* [T]

as-phyx-i-ate /æsˈfɪksɪet, ə-/ *v* [I;T] *fml* to (cause to) be unable to breathe air; esp. to die or kill someone in this way; SUFFOCATE —**ation** /æsˈfɪksɪˈeɪʃən, ə-/ *n* [U]

as-pic /ˈæspɪk/ *n* [U] a clear brownish jelly made from meat bones: *chicken in aspic*

as-pi-dis-tra /, æspɪˈdɪstrə/ *n* a plant with broad green pointed leaves, often grown in houses

As-pin /ˈæspɪn/, **Les/lez** (1938–) a US Congressman who was named as Secretary of Defense by President Clinton in 1992

as-pi-rant /əˈspaɪərənt, ˈæspɪərənt/ *n* [(to, for)] *fml* a person who hopes for and tries to get a position of importance or honour: *one of the aspirants to the vice-presidency*

as-pi-rate¹ /ˈæspɪreɪt/ *v* [T] *tech* to pronounce (a word or letter) with the sound of the letter H (as in (a) *human* but not in (an) *honour*) or with **ASPIRATION** (2)

as-pi-rate² /ˈæspɪreɪt/ *n* *tech* the sound of the letter H, or the letter itself

as-pi-ra-tion /ˌæspɪˈreɪʃən/ *n* 1 [C;U] (a) strong desire to do something or have something, esp. something great or important: *The colonial government could no longer ignore the political aspirations of the local people.* [+to-v] *She has aspirations to become a great writer.* 2 [U] *tech* the blowing out of air that follows when some consonants are pronounced, such as the /p/ in *pin*

as-pire /əˈspaɪə/ *v* [I] to direct one's hopes and efforts to some important aim: *an aspiring young actress* [+to, after] *He aspired after a political career/to the leadership of the party.* [+to-v] *She aspires to become president.*

as-pirin /ˈæsprɪn/ *n* **aspirin** or **aspirins** [C;U] (a TABLET of) a medicine that reduces pain, INFLAMMATION, and fever: *Take a couple of aspirins for your headache.*

As-quith /ˈæskwɪθ/, **Herbert Henry** (1852–1928) a British Liberal politician and PRIME MINISTER from 1908 to 1916

ass /æs/ *n* 1 an animal like a horse but smaller and with longer ears, e.g. the DONKEY 2 *infml* a stupid foolish person: *a pompous ass*

ass² *n* *AmE* for ARSE¹ (1)

As-sad /ˈæsəd/, **Ha-fez al-** /ˈhɑːfez æl/ (1928–) a former general and the president of Syria since 1971

as-sail /əˈseɪl/ *v* [T (with)] *fml* to attack violently: *The police were assailed with rocks and petrol bombs.* | *I was assailed by doubts/worries.*

as-sai-lant /əˈseɪlənt/ *n fml* an attacker

As-sam /əˈsæm/ *n* [U] a type of tea from the Assam state in NE India

as-sas-sin /əˈsæsɪn/ *n* a person who murders someone important, such as a ruler or politician: *Kennedy's assassin*

as-sas-sin-ate /əˈsæsɪneɪt/ *v* [T] to murder (a ruler, politician, or other important person): *a plot to assassinate the president* —see KILL (USAGE) —**-ation** /əˈsæsɪˈneɪʃən/ *n* [C;U]: *a spate of assassinations* | *an assassination attempt*

as-sault¹ /əˈsɔːlt/ *n* [C;U(on)] (a) violent attack, esp. a sudden one: *The army launched a major assault against the rebel town.* | (fig.) *They made an assault on (=an attempt to climb) Mount Everest.* | *He was sent to prison for assault.* (=an attack on another person) —see also INDECENT ASSAULT

assault² *v* [T] to make an assault on, often an INDECENT ASSAULT: *She was too shaken after being assaulted to report the incident to the police.* | *The minister was assaulted by a barrage of abuse from the angry strikers.*

assault and bat-ter-y /ˌæˌsɔːlt ˌbætərɪ/ *n* [U] *law* an attack which includes not only threats but the actual use of violence

assault course /ˌæˌsɔːlt ˌkɔːrs/ *BrE* || **obstacle course** *AmE* *n* an area of land on which soldiers and other people train by climbing or jumping over objects, through water, etc., in order to develop their fitness and courage

as-say /əˈseɪ/ *v* [T] 1 to test (metal-bearing soil, a gold ring, etc.) to discover what materials are present 2 *lit* to attempt (something difficult): *to assay the impossible* — **assay** *n*

as-se-gai /ˈæsɪɡaɪ/ *n* a long thin wooden spear with an iron point, used in southern Africa

as-sem-blage /əˈsemlɪdʒ/ *n fml* 1 [C+*sing./pl. v*] a group of people or a collection of articles 2 [U] the act of coming or putting together

as-sem-ble /əˈsemlə/ *v* 1 [I;T] to gather or collect together into a group or into one place: *At the beginning of the day, we all assemble in the main hall to be addressed by the head teacher.* | *He called us all together, and told the assembled company (=the group that had assembled) that the exams had been cancelled.* | *to assemble a vast collection of old books* 2 [T] to put (something) together: *This bookcase is very easy to assemble.* | *to assemble cars/radios/a model aeroplane*

as-sem-bly /əˈsembli/ *n* 1 [C+*sing./pl. v*] a group of people, esp. one gathered together for a special purpose, such as worship 2 [U] a meeting together of people: *to deny citizens the right of assembly* 3 [C;U] a meeting of all the teachers and pupils of a school. Many schools in Britain have assembly every morning before classes begin for the day. In American schools, assemblies are less frequent and used for a special lesson, presentation, or ceremony. 4 [C+*sing./pl. v*] (*often cap.*) a law-making body, esp. the lower of two such bodies: *the New York State Assembly*

assembly lan-guage /ˌæˌsɪmˌbli ˈlæŋɡwɪʒ/ *n* [C;U] a language used for writing computer PROGRAMS in a form which the computer can translate into MACHINE CODE

assembly line /ˌæˌsɪmˌbli ˈlaɪn/ *n* an arrangement of workers and machines in which each person has a particular job and the work is passed, often on a moving band, directly from one worker to the next until the product is complete

as-sem-bly-man /əˈsemlɪmən/ **as-sem-bly-wom-an** /-ˌwʊmən/ *fem.* — *n* **-men** /mən/ *AmE* a member of an ASSEMBLY (4)

as-sent¹ /əˈsent/ *v* [I (to)] *fml* to agree to a suggestion, idea, etc. after careful consideration: *The chairman assented to the committee's proposals.* [+to-v] *The judge assented to allow the prisoner to speak.*

assent² *n* [U] agreement to a suggestion or idea: *We're waiting for the director to give his assent.* —opposite **dissent**

as-assert /əˈsɜːt/ *v* [T] 1 to state or declare forcefully: *She asserted her opinions.* | *Although she was found guilty, she continued to assert her innocence.* [+that] *The government has repeatedly asserted that it will not change its policy.* 2 to make a claim to; defend (a right or claim) by forceful action: *to assert one's rights/independence* | *He asserted his authority by making them be quiet.* 3 **assert oneself** to show one's power, control, importance, etc.

as-assertion /əˈsɜːʃən/ *n* a forceful statement or claim: *She could provide no evidence to back up her assertions.* [+that] *He repeated his assertion that he was not guilty.*

as-ser-tive /əˈsɜːtɪv/ *adj* expressing or tending to express strong opinions or claims; showing a confident belief in one's own ability: *If you want to succeed in this business, you should be more assertive.* —see also SELF-ASSERTIVE — **~ly** *adv* — **~ness** *n* [U]

assertiveness training /ˌæˌsɜːtɪvɪz ˈtreɪnɪŋ/ *n* [U] a course of lessons taken by someone to teach them how to become more assertive, so that they are able to express their opinions and make known their wishes

as-sess /əˈses/ *v* [T] 1 [(at)] to calculate or decide the value or amount of: *to assess the damage caused by a storm* | *They assessed the value of the house at £60,000.* 2 to judge the quality, importance, or worth of; EVALUATE: *He's so lazy that it's difficult to assess his ability.* | *It's too early to assess the effects of the new legislation.*

as-sess-ment /əˈsesmənt/ *n* 1 [C;U] (an example of) the act of assessing: *a very perceptive assessment of the situation* | *What's your assessment of her chances of winning?* —see also CONTINUOUS ASSESSMENT 2 [C] the value or amount at which something is calculated: *my tax assessment for 1990*

as-ses-sor /əˈsesə/ *n* 1 a person whose job is to calculate the value of property or the amount of income or taxes 2 a person who advises a judge or official committee on matters that demand special knowledge

as-set /ˈæset/ *n* 1 the property of a person, company, etc. that has value and that may be sold to pay a debt: *The company's liquid assets (=money, or property that can easily be sold for money) are enormous.* 2 a valuable quality, skill, or person: *A sense of humour is a great asset in this job.* | *She's a tremendous asset to the company.* —compare LIABILITY (3,4) —see also CURRENT ASSETS, FIXED ASSETS, LIQUID ASSETS

asset-strip-ping /ˌæˌsɛt ˈstriːpɪŋ/ *n* [U] *tech* the practice of buying a company cheaply, selling all its assets to make a profit, and then closing it down

as-sev-e-rate /əˈsevəreɪt/ *v* [T+obj/that] *fml* to declare solemnly and forcefully —**-ration** /əˈsevəˈreɪʃən/ *n* [C;U]

ass-hole /ˈæshəʊl/ *n* *AmE* for ARSE¹ (2)

as-sid-u-ous /əˈsɪdjuəs/ *adj* showing careful and continuous attention; DILIGENT — **~ly** *adv* — **~ness**, —**-ity** /ˌæˈsɪdjuːz/ *n* [U]

as-sign /əˈsaɪn/ *v* [T] 1 [(to)] to give as a share or duty; ALLOT: [+obj(i)+obj(d)] *I've been assigned the job of looking after the new students.* | *They've assigned the job to me.* 2 to fix or set aside for a purpose; decide on; name: *We assigned a day for our meeting.* [+obj+to-v] *I've been assigned to take notes.* 3 [(to)] to give (property, rights, etc.) by a legal process: *She assigned her whole estate to a charitable organization.* — **~able** *adj*

as-sig-na-tion /ˌæˈsɪɡˈneɪʃən/ *n fml* or *humor* a meeting, esp. a secret meeting with a lover

as-sign-ment /ə'saɪnmənt/ *n* 1 [C] a duty or piece of work that is given to a particular person or people: *She's going to India on a special assignment for her newspaper.* | *His assignment was to follow the spy.* 2 [U (of)] the act of assigning: *the assignment of the chores*

as-sim-i-late /ə'sɪmɪleɪt/ *v* 1 [I;T] *tech* a to take (food) into the body and DIGEST it b (of food) to be taken into the body and digested 2 [T] to understand completely and be able to use properly: *You have to assimilate the facts, not just remember them.* 3 [I;T (into)] to make or become like the people of a country, race, or other group, esp. in ways of behaving or thinking: *America has assimilated many people from Europe.* | *They assimilated easily into the new community.*

as-sim-i-la-tion /ə,sɪmɪ'leɪʃən/ *n* [U] 1 the act of assimilating or of being assimilated 2 *tech* the changing of a speech sound because of the influence of another speech sound next to it (e.g. the *p* in *cupboard*)

Assisi see SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI

as-sist /ə'sɪst/ *v* [I;T (in, with)] *fml* to help or support: *A team of nurses assisted (the doctor) in performing the operation.* | *A man is assisting police (with their inquiries).* (=has been taken by the police for questioning) —see HELP (USAGE)

as-sist-ance /ə'sɪstəns/ *n* [U (in)] *rather fml* help or support: *Unless we receive more financial assistance from the government, the hospital will have to close.* | *Can I be of any assistance?* | *I was given some assistance in coming to my decision.* | *She came to my assistance.*

as-sis-tant /ə'sɪstənt/ *n* a person who helps another in a job or piece of work, and is under that person's direction: *When the shop is busy he employs an assistant.* | *a clerical assistant* | *an assistant cook/manager* | *the Assistant Director of Education in the London area* —see also SHOP ASSISTANT; see ATTEND (USAGE)

assistant pro-fes-sor /ə'.. 'sɪstənt/ *n* a PROFESSOR (=teacher) at an American university who has a middle rank —compare ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, FULL PROFESSOR

as-siz-es /ə'saɪzɪz/ *n* [(the)P] (in Britain until 1971) a meeting or meetings of a special court held by an important judge travelling from one county town to another —**assize** *adj* [A]

assoc *written abbrev. for:* 1 associated 2 also assn—association

as-so-ci-ate 1 /ə'səʊfiət, ə'səʊsi-/ *v* 1 [I;T (with)] to join in a relationship based on friendship, business, or a shared purpose; combine as friends or partners: *The military régime dealt ruthlessly with anyone who was associated with the former government.* | *He associates with criminals.* 2 [T (with)] to connect in thought, memory, or imagination: *I associate summer with holidays.* | *The scientist decided he didn't want to be associated with the project, and left.*

as-so-ci-ate 2 /ə'səʊfiət, -ʃət/ *n* 1 a person connected with another, esp. in work; partner: *He's not a friend; he's a business associate.* 2 (often *cap.*) the holder of an associate degree: *an associate of arts*

associated com-pa-ny /ə'.. 'sɪstənt/ *n* a company of which 20 to 50 per cent of SHARES¹(2) are owned by the parent company —compare SUBSIDIARY

as-so-ci-ate de-gree /ə'.. 'sɪstənt/ *n* a degree given after two years of study in the US, usu. at a JUNIOR COLLEGE

associate pro-fes-sor /ə'.. 'sɪstənt/ *n* a PROFESSOR (=teacher) at an American university who has the lowest rank —compare ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, FULL PROFESSOR

as-so-ci-a-tion /ə,səʊsi'eɪʃən, ə,səʊsi-/ *n* 1 [C+*sing./pl. v*] an organization of people joined together for a shared purpose: *The Association of Scientific Workers is/are having its/their annual conference next week.* | *She set up/formed an association to help blind people.* —see also HOUSING ASSOCIATION 2 [U (with)] the act of associating or fact of being associated: *Our long association with your company has brought great benefits.* | *The council is working in association with the police on this.* 3 [C;U] (a) connection made in the mind between different things, ideas, etc.: *the association of ideas* | *Hospitals have rather unpleasant associations for me.* —see also FREE ASSOCIATION

Association foot-ball /ə'.. 'sɪstənt/ *n* [U] *BrE fml* for FOOTBALL (1)

as-so-nance /'æsnəns/ *n* [U] *tech* similarity in the sounds of words, esp. the vowels of words (e.g. between *born* and *warm*)

as-sort /ə'sɔ:t||-ɔ:rt/ *v* [T] to divide into different sorts
assort with *phr v* 1 [T] *BrE fml* to match; agree with: *This does not assort with his earlier statement.* 2 to be friendly with (esp. bad company): *He is known to assort with criminal types.*

as-sort-ed /ə'sɔ:tɪd||-ɔ:r-/ *adj* 1 of various types mixed together: *a bag of assorted sweets* 2 *fml (in comb.)* suited by nature or character; matched: *Anne and David are an ill-assorted pair.*

as-sort-ment /ə'sɔ:tmənt||-ɔ:r-/ *n* [C+*sing./pl. v*] a group or quantity of mixed things or of various kinds of the same thing; mixture: *an assortment of sweets* | *She has an odd assortment of friends.*

asst *written abbrev. for:* ASSISTANT

as-suage /ə'sweɪdʒ/ *v* [T] *fml* to make (suffering, desire, etc.) less strong or severe; RELIEVE: *to assuage one's thirst*

as-sume /ə'sju:m||ə'su:m/ *v* [T] 1 to believe (something) to be true without actually having proof that it is; suppose: *We can't just assume her guilt.* [+*(that)*] *If he's not here in five minutes, we'll assume (that) he isn't coming.* | **Assuming (that)** *you're right about this, what shall we do?* [+*obj+to-v*] *He was with an elderly man and woman, who I assumed were his grandparents.* 2 to take or claim for oneself (sometimes without the right to do so); begin to have or use: *You will assume your new responsibilities tomorrow.* | *The army assumed control of the government.* 3 to begin to have (a quality or appearance): *The problem is beginning to assume massive proportions.* 4 to pretend to have; FEIGN: *He assumes a well-informed manner but in fact he knows very little.* | *to write under an assumed name*

as-sump-tion /ə'sʌmpʃən/ *n* 1 [C] something that is taken as a fact or believed to be true without proof: *Don't rely on the information she gave you — it's pure assumption (on her part).* | *The results of the experiment shook the basic assumptions of his theory.* [+*that*] *our mistaken assumption that the price would fall* | *Let's work on the assumption (=taking it as likely) that our proposal will be accepted.* 2 [U (of)] the act of assuming: *the army's assumption of power*

Assumption, The 1 (in the ROMAN CATHOLIC religion) the bodily taking up of the VIRGIN MARY (=Jesus' mother) into heaven 2 the day (August 15th) on which this event is celebrated

as-sur-ance /ə'ʃʊərəns/ *n* 1 [C (of, about)] a firm statement that something is certainly true or will certainly happen; promise: *In spite of all his assurances, he did not come back.* | *She gave repeated assurances of her loyalty.* [+*that*] *Let me give you my assurance that the work will be finished by the agreed date.* 2 [U] confident belief in one's own ability and powers: *The new teacher lacked assurance in front of his class.* —see also SELF-ASSURED 3 [U] *BrE* insurance against events that are certain rather than possible: *life assurance*

as-sure /ə'ʃʊə/ *v* [T] 1 [(of)] to tell firmly and with confidence with the aim of removing doubt; promise: *He assured us of his ability to solve the problem.* [+*obj+(that)*] *I can assure you (that) the medicine is perfectly safe.* | *You can rest assured (=feel certain) that your son will be happy here.* 2 to make (something) certain to happen or be gained; ENSURE: *The excellent reviews given to the film have assured its success.* 3 [(of)] to make (someone) feel certain of having or gaining something: *We booked early to assure ourselves of (getting) good seats.* | *Our clients are assured of an enjoyable and trouble-free holiday.* 4 *BrE* to INSURE, esp. against death —see INSURE (USAGE)

as-sured 1 /ə'ʃʊəd||ə'ʃʊəd/ *adj* 1 also **self-assured**—confident in one's own abilities: *an assured manner* 2 having or showing certainty: *There is an assured demand for these products.* | *Her political future looks assured.* —*ly* /ə'ʃʊədli/ *adv*

assured 2 *n* **assured** [*the+C*] *BrE tech* a person whose life has been insured (INSURE): *On the death of the assured his family will receive a lump sum and an annual income.*

As-syr-ia /ə'sɪrɪə/ an ancient civilization of W Asia around the city of Ashur, on the Tigris river. It was esp. important between the ninth and seventh centuries BC.

As-syr-i-an /ə'sɪriən/ *adj* of or about the people or language of Assyria — **Assyrians** *n* [the+P]

As-taire /ə'steɪr/, **Fred** /fred/ (1899–1987) an American dancer, singer, and actor who made many films, often with his dancing partner, **Ginger Rogers**, and who is known for his stylishness

as-te-risk /'æstərɪsk/ also **star**— *n* a mark like a star (*) used **a** to draw attention to a note at the bottom of a page **b** to mark that certain letters are missing from a word **c** (*tech*) to show that a word, phrase, sound, etc., is incorrect (as in the example "In English we say *three boys*, not **three boy*.") — **asterisk** *v* [T] *BrE*

As-te-rix /'æstərɪks/ a **CARTOON** (1) character of French origin, who is a small, humorous **GALLIC** soldier. The **CARTOON** is very popular in book form and also in the films made from the stories

a-stern /ə'stɜːn/—*ɜːrn*/ *adv* in or at the back part (**STERN**) of a ship

as-te-roid /'æstərɔɪd/ also **minor planet**— *n* one of many small **PLANETS** between Mars and Jupiter

asth-ma /'æsmə/—'æzmə/ *n* [U] a long-lasting disease which causes difficulty in breathing — **tic** /æs'mætɪk/—*æz*—/ *n*, *adj*: *He is (an) asthmatic.* — **~tically** /kli/ *adv*

as-tig-ma-tis-m /ə'stɪgmətɪzəm/ *n* [U] the inability of the eye to see properly or clearly because of its shape — **tic** /'æstɪg'mætɪk/—/ *adj*

a-stir /ə'stɜːr/ *adj* [F] *esp. lit* **1** awake and out of bed: *No one was astir so early.* **2** [(with)] in a state of excitement: *The ship was astir with anxious passengers.*

As-ti spu-man-te /,æsti spuː'mænti/—'maɪn—/ *n* [U] a **SPARKLING** white wine from the town of Asti in Italy, which people sometimes drink instead of **CHAMPAGNE** when they want to celebrate, because it is cheaper

as-ton-ish /ə'stɒnɪʃ/—'stɑːr—/ *v* [T] to fill with great surprise and perhaps disbelief: *She's been promoted again? — You astonish me!* | *an astonishing piece of news* | *We were all astonished by the news/astonished to hear that he had passed his driving test.* — **~ingly** *adv*

as-ton-ish-ment /ə'stɒnɪʃmənt/—'stɑːr—/ *n* [U] great surprise or wonder: *To our astonishment he actually arrived on time.* | *She stared in astonishment at the document.*

As-ton /'æstən/ the name of a university in Birmingham, central England

Aston Mar-tin /,æstən 'mɑːr—/ *tdmk* a British car maker known esp. for their good quality, expensive sports cars

Aston Vil-la /,æstən 'vɪl—/ the name of a British football club based in Birmingham

as-tound /ə'staʊnd/ *v* [T] to fill with shocked surprise, esp. because of something completely unexpected: *The news of their divorce astounded me.* | *an astounding defeat in the election* | *We were astounded by his success/astounded to hear that he had won.*

As-tra /'æstrə/ *n tdmk* a popular, small to middle sized car made by the British company Vauxhall

as-tra-khan /,æstrə'kæn/—'æstrəkən/ *n* [U] lamb's skin with the wool in tight little curls: *astrakhan coats*

as-tral /'æstrəl/ *adj* of or concerning stars

a-stray /ə'streɪ/ *adv* away from the right path or way: *One of the sheep went astray and got lost.* | (fig.) *I seem to have gone astray (=made a mistake) somewhere in my calculations.* | (fig.) *The attractions of the big city soon led him astray.* (=into bad ways)

Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers



Asterix



a-stride /ə'straɪd/ *adv*, *prep* with a leg on each side (of): *sitting astride his horse*

as-trin-gent /ə'strɪndʒənt/ *adj* **1** able to tighten up the skin or stop bleeding: *astrigent lotions* **2** severe; bitter: *astrigent criticism* — **~ly** *adv* — **gency** *n* [U]

astrigent *n* [C;U] *tech* a substance or medicine that tightens up the skin and stops bleeding

astro- see **WORD FORMATION**

as-trol-o-ger /ə'strɒlədʒə/—'stɑːr—/ *n* a person who practises astrology

as-trol-o-gy /ə'strɒlədʒi/—'stɑːr—/ *n* [U] the art of understanding the supposed influence of the sun, moon, stars, and **PLANETS** on events and on people's character. Astrology is not considered to be a proper science, and is not taken seriously by most people. — see **ZODIAC (USAGE)** — **gical** /,æstrə'lədʒɪkəl/—'laːr—/ *adj* — **gically** /kli/ *adv*

as-tro-naut /'æstrənɔːt/—nɔːt, -nɔːt/ *n* a person who travels in a spacecraft — see colour picture on page 752 and see also picture at **HELMET**

as-tro-nom-i-cal /,æstrə'nɒmɪkəl/—'nɑːr—/ also **as-tro-nom-ic** /,æstrə'nɒmɪk/—'nɑːr—/ *adj* **1** [A *no comp.*] of the stars or for the study of the stars: *an astronomical telescope* **2** *infml* (usu. of an amount or number) extremely large: *astronomical sums of money* | *a failure of astronomical proportions* — **~ly** /kli/ *adv*

as-tron-o-my /ə'strɒnəmi/—'stɑːr—/ *n* [U] the scientific study of the sun, moon, stars, etc.

as-tro-phys-ics /,æstrəʊ'fɪzɪks, 'æstrə—/ *n* [U] the scientific study of the chemical nature of the stars and the natural forces that influence them — **ical** *adj* — **icist** /-fɪzɪsɪst/ *n*

As-tro-turf /'æstrəʊtɜːf/—tɜːrf/ *n* [U] *tdmk* artificial grass used as a playing surface for sports

as-tute /ə'stjuːt/—'stjuːt/ *adj* clever and able to see quickly something that is to one's advantage; **SHREWD**: *an astute businesswoman/investment* — **~ly** *adv* — **~ness** *n* [U]

a-sun-der /ə'sʌndə/ *adv lit* **1** apart or into separate pieces: *The boat was torn asunder on the rocks.* **2** **Those whom God hath joined together let no man put asunder** let no one try to destroy this marriage (part of the Christian marriage service)

As-wan High Dam /,æswaːn haɪ 'dæm/ one of the world's largest **DAMS** built across the River Nile in Egypt

a-sy-lum /ə'saɪləm/ *n* **1** [U] protection and shelter, esp. as given by one country to people who have left another for political reasons: *to seek/be granted political asylum* **2** [C] becoming rare a **MENTAL HOSPITAL**

a-sy-lum seek-er /-ˈsɪləm ˈsiːkə/ *n* a person who has left one country usu. for political reasons and is asking for protection and shelter in another

a-sym-met-ric /,eɪsɪ'metrɪk/—,æ—/ also **-rical** /kəl/— *adj* having sides that are not alike; lacking **SYMMETRY** — opposite **symmetrical** — **~ally** /kli/ *adv*

a-syn-chro-nous /eɪ'sɪŋkrənəs/ *adj tech* of or being a method of sending computer information over telephone lines in which specific **BITS** are used to show the beginning and end of each character sent — compare **SYNCHRONOUS**

As You Like It /,iː ˈliːk ɪt/ the title of a play by William Shakespeare, a **ROMANTIC** (2) **COMEDY** (1)

at /æt; strong æt/ *prep* **1** (shows a point in space): *at my house* | *at the bottom of the page* | *He was standing at the door/at the bus stop.* | *We arrived at the airport.* **2** **a** (shows an exact point in time): *at 10 o'clock* | *I'm busy at the moment.* (=now) **b** (shows a period of time) | *I often work at night.* | *It sometimes snows at Christmas.* **3** (shows an intended aim or object towards which a thing or action is directed): *Aim at the target.* | *He shot at the bird, but missed it.* (compare *He shot the bird.* (=he did not miss it)) | *Look at this!* | *She shouted at the boy.* | *to guess at the answer* **4** (shows the cause of an action or feeling): *I was surprised/amused/pleased at (=by) his behaviour.* | *I laughed at him/at his joke.* | (*AmE*) *Don't be mad at me.* (=angry with me) **5** (shows the subject or activity in which a judgment about someone's ability is made): *He's clever at arranging things.* | *He's bad at games.* | *She's a genius at chemistry.* | *She's getting on very well at her job.* **6** (shows a state or continued activity): *I never smoke at work/at school.* | *at liberty* | *at rest* | *The two countries are at war.* **7** (shows a price, rate, level, age, speed, etc.): *sold at (a price of) ten cents each* |

The temperature stood at 40°. | *to stop working at (the age of) 60* | *to drive at 100 kilometres an hour* | *The horse set off at a gallop.* | *I saw it at a distance.* (=a long way off)
8 (used before a SUPERLATIVE): *It will cost at least £1000.* | *The disease could affect, at worst, up to half the population.* **9** **at a/an** as a result of only one; in only one: to reduce prices at a stroke (=by a single action or decision) | two at a time **10** **at that:** **a** as well; besides: *It's a new idea, and a good one, at that.* **b** following or as a result of that; then: *She called him a liar, and at that he stormed out of the room.* **11** **where it's at** *infml* the most important thing: *Making lots of money and driving a big car – that's where it's at!* – see also **(not) at all** (ALL³)

AT&T /ˌeɪ tɪz ənd ˈtiː/ American Telephone and Telegraph; an American maker of telephone, computer, and electronic equipment and services

At-a-türk /ˈætətɜːk/–tɜːrk/, **Ke-mal** /keˈmɑːl/ (1881–1938) a Turkish politician whose real name was **Mustafa Kemal Pasha**. He was the first president of Turkey, and established it as a modern republic.

ate /et, eɪt/ *past tense of EAT*

▷ **USAGE** The usual British pronunciation is /et/, though some people say /eɪt/. Most Americans say /eɪt/, and /et/ is thought to be nonstandard by most Americans. ◁

a-the-is-m /ˈeɪθi-ɪzəm/ *n* [U] disbelief in the existence of God

a-the-ist /ˈeɪθi-ɪst/ *n* a person who does not believe in the existence of God: *a confirmed atheist* – compare **AGNOSTIC**, **PAGAN**¹ – ~ **ic(al)** /ˌeɪθiˈɪstɪk(əl)/ *adj* – ~ **ically** /kli/ *adv*

A-the-na /əˈθiːnə/ also **A-the-ne** /əˈθiːni/ – in **CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY**, the Greek goddess of wisdom and the arts (Roman name **Minerva**)

A-the-nae-um Club /əˈθiːniəm ˌklʌb/ [*the*] (in Britain) a gentleman's **CLUB**¹ (3) in Pall Mall in London

Ath-ens /ˈæθənz/ the capital city of Greece. Athens was the centre of ancient Greek civilization and many tourists now go there to see places of historical importance such as the **Acropolis**.

ath-e-ro-scle-ro-sis /ˌæθərəʊskləˈrəʊsɪs/ *n* [U] *med* a form of **ARTERIOSCLEROSIS** in which the arteries (**ARTERY**) become blocked by fatty material (containing **CHOLESTEROL**), which gradually reduces the blood flow through the body – see also **ARTERIOSCLEROSIS**

ath-lete /ˈæθliːt/ *n* a person who practises athletics

athlete's foot /ˌiːt/ *n* [U] a disease in which the skin cracks between the toes

ath-let-ic /æθˈletɪk, æθ-/ *adj* **1** [*no comp.*] of or concerning athletes or athletics **2** (of people) physically strong and active, with plenty of muscle and speed: *of athletic build*

ath-let-ics /æθˈletɪks, æθ-/ *BrE* || **track and field** *AmE* *n* [U] the practice of physical exercises and of sports demanding strength and speed, such as running and jumping: *an athletics club/meeting*

athletic sup-por-ter /ˌiːt/ *n* *AmE fml* for **JOCKSTRAP**

a-thwart /əˈθwɔːt/–ɔːrt/ *prep* rare across, esp. in a sloping direction

a-tish-oo /əˈtɪʃuː/ *interj* the word used to represent the sound of a **SNEEZE**

At-kin-son /ˈætkinsən/, **Rowan** (1955–) a British **COMEDIAN** and actor known esp. for his leading parts in television programmes such as *Blackadder* and *Mr Bean*

At-lan-ta /ətˈlæntə/ the capital city of the state of Georgia in the US – see colour map on pages 1374-5

At-lan-tic¹ /ətˈlæntɪk/ [*the*] the Atlantic Ocean. British people sometimes use the expressions “across the Atlantic” and “on the other side of the Atlantic”, when they are talking about America.

Atlantic² *adj* in or near the Atlantic Ocean: *the Atlantic countries* | *the Atlantic community*

Atlantic Cit-y /ˌiːt/ *n* a city on the coast of New Jersey in the US, famous today for its many **CASINOS**

Atlantic O-cean /ˌiːt/ [*the*] the second largest ocean in the world, which separates N and S America from Europe and Africa – see colour map on pages 1374-5

At-lan-tis /ətˈlæntɪs/ an island which, according to an old story, sank beneath the sea in the Atlantic Ocean west of Gibraltar: *as far out of reach as Atlantis*

at-las /ˈætɫəs/ *n* a book of maps: *a world atlas*

Atlas in Greek **MYTHOLOGY**, a member of a race called the Titans, who, after their defeat by the Olympians, had to hold the sky on his shoulders forever. In pictures, Atlas is usually shown holding the world, rather than the sky, on his shoulders. – see colour picture on page 423. Because of this story an American **BODYBUILDER** called himself Charles Atlas and the word Atlas is now sometimes used to describe someone who is very strong: *Mr Atlas* | *He thinks he's Charles Atlas* | *Have you been working out? You look like Charles Atlas.*

ATM /ˌeɪ tɪz ˈem/ *n* automatic teller machine; *AmE* for **CASH DISPENSER**

at-mo-sphere /ˈætmoʊsfiə/ *n* **1** [C; *the+S*] the mixture of gases that surrounds the Earth, a star, etc. **2** [S] the air, esp. in a room: *a smoky atmosphere* **3** [C *usu. sing.*] the general character or feeling of a place: *Ever since their quarrel, there has been an unpleasant atmosphere in the office.*

at-mo-spher-ic /ˌætmoʊˈferɪk/ *adj* **1** [A] of or concerning the Earth's atmosphere: *atmospheric pressure* **2** mysteriously beautiful and strange: *That music's very atmospheric.*

at-mo-spher-ics /ˌætmoʊˈferɪks/ *n* [P] (a continuous light cracking noise in a radio caused by) electrical forces in the atmosphere

at-oll /ˈætɒl/–ˈætɔːl, ˈætɔːl, ˈætəʊl/ *n* a ring-shaped island made of **CORAL**, partly or completely enclosing an area of sea water (**LAGOON**)

at-om /ˈætəm/ *n* the smallest piece of a simple substance (**ELEMENT**) that can exist alone or combine with other substances (to form **MOLECULES**): (fig.) *There's not an atom (=not even the smallest bit) of truth in that statement.*

atom bomb /ˌiːt/ also **atomic bomb** /ˌiːt/ *n* **A-bomb** – *n* becoming old-fash a bomb that uses the explosive power of **NUCLEAR ENERGY**

a-tom-ic /əˈtɒmɪk/–ˈtɑː-/ *adj* of or concerning atoms, **NUCLEAR** weapons, or **NUCLEAR ENERGY**: *an atomic submarine* | *atomic power/warfare* – ~ **ally** /kli/ *adv*

atomic en-er-gy /ˌiːt/ *n* [U] **NUCLEAR ENERGY**

atomic pile /ˌiːt/ *n* a **NUCLEAR REACTOR**

at-om-izer /ˈætəmaɪzər/ *n* an instrument that changes a liquid, such as a **PERFUME**, into a mist of very small drops by forcing it out through a very small hole

atom smash-er /ˌiːt/ *n* *infml* **ACCELERATOR** (2)

a-ton-al /eɪˈtəʊnl, æ-/ *adj* (of music) not based on any ordered **SCALE** (=set of notes) – ~ **ly** *adv* – ~ **ity** /ˌeɪtəʊˈnælɪti, æ-/ *n* [U]

a-tone /əˈtəʊn/ *v* [I (for)] to make repayment (for a crime, for failing to do something, etc.): *He tried to atone for his rudeness by sending her some flowers.* – ~ **ment** *n* [U] – see also **DAY OF ATONEMENT**

a-top /əˈtɒp/–ˈtɑːp/ *prep* lit on, to, or at the top of

A to Z /ˌeɪ tə ˈzed/–ˈziː/ see **A-Z**

at-ri-um /ˈeɪtriəm/ *n* **-ria** /riə/ or **-ums** **1** either of the two spaces in the top of the heart that force blood into the **VENTRICLES** **2** a large open space on the ground floor of a tall building sometimes open to the sky and sometimes going up several levels of the building

a-tro-cious /əˈtrəʊʃəs/ *adj* **1** extremely cruel, evil, shameful, shocking, etc.: *an atrocious crime* | *atrocious working conditions* **2** *infml* very bad or unpleasant: *an atrocious meal* – ~ **ly** *adv*

a-troc-i-ty /əˈtrɒʃɪti/–ˈtrɑː-/ *n* **1** [C; U] (an act of) great evil, esp. cruelty: *war criminals who committed appalling atrocities/acts of appalling atrocity* **2** [C] *infml* something that is very unpleasant or ugly: *The new library building is an atrocity.*

at-ro-phy /ˈætrəfi/ *v* [I; T] to (cause to) weaken and lose flesh and muscle through lack of blood or lack of use: *The disease atrophied her leg.* | *Her leg quickly atrophied.* | (fig.) *a boring repetitive job that atrophied my mind* – **atrophy** *n* [U]

at-tach /əˈtætʃ/ *v* [T] **1** [(to)] to fasten in position; fix or connect: *Be careful of the handle – it's not very well attached.* | *She attached a cheque to the order form.* | “*Their offer seems too good to be true.*” “*Don't worry – there are no strings attached.*” (=no hidden conditions)–

compare DETACH **2** *law* to seize (goods or a person) because of an unpaid debt

attach to *phr v* [T] **1** (**attach** sbdy. to sthg.) to cause to belong to (a group or organization), esp. for a limited period: *During the war I was attached to the naval college as a gunnery instructor.* | *I got lost so I attached myself to another party of tourists.* **2** (**attach** sthg. to sthg.) to regard as having (special meaning or importance): *She attaches great importance to regular exercise.* | *It would be unwise to attach too much significance to these opinion polls.* **3** (**attach to** sthg.) *fml* to belong to or be connected with: *No blame attaches to him for the accident.* [+*v-ing*] *the responsibilities that attach to being president* **4** **be attached to** to be fond of and feel a strong connection with: *I am deeply/very attached to this old car.*

at-tach-é /ə'tæʃeɪ||æ'təʃeɪ/ *n* a person with specialist knowledge who works in an EMBASSY: *a naval attaché*

attaché case /ə'tæʃeɪ||æ'təʃeɪ/ *n* a thin hard case with a handle, for carrying papers —compare BRIEFCASE

at-tach-ment /ə'tætʃmənt/ *n* **1** [C] something that is fixed to something else: *a vacuum cleaner with a special attachment for dusting books* **2** [C (to)] fondness or friendship (for): *She has already formed a strong attachment to her baby brother.* **3** [U (to)] the act of attaching or state of being attached: *an officer on attachment to the drugs squad* **4** [C;U] *law* the seizure of a person or their goods in order to clear a debt

at-tack¹ /ə'tæk/ *v* **1** [I;T] to use violence (against), esp. with weapons: *The enemy attacked (us) at night.* **2** [T] to speak or write strongly against with the intention of showing something to be bad or worthless: *a powerful speech attacking government policy* **3** [T] to have a harmful or damaging effect on, esp. by a continuing action: *The disease attacks cereal crops/the central nervous system.* **4** [T] to begin to deal with (something) with eagerness and determination: *She attacked the problem at once.* | *He attacked the food as if he hadn't eaten for a week.* — *~er n*: armed attackers

attack² *n* **1** [C (on);U] (an act of) violence intended to harm: *Security will be increased after yesterday's attack on the president's life.* | *The city came under attack during the night.* **2** [C (on)] writing, words, or action directed forcefully against a person, plan, etc., intended to hurt or damage: *The speaker made a scathing attack on the government's record.* | *The police are launching a major attack on drug dealers.* **3** [C (of)] a sudden and usu. severe period of illness, esp. one which tends to return: *an attack of malaria/asthma* | (fig.) *He was overcome by a sudden attack of shyness.* —see also HEART ATTACK

at-tain /ə'teɪn/ *v* [T] *fml* to gain or arrive at after long effort; reach: *She attained the rank of deputy director.* | *to attain one's objectives* — *~able adj*

attain to sthg. *phr v* [T no pass.] *fml* to reach (a desired state or condition)

at-tain-ment /ə'teɪnmənt/ *n fml* **1** [U] the act of attaining: *the attainment of happiness* **2** [C] something that has been successfully gained or learned, often a skill: *The ability to speak Chinese was among his attainments.*

at-tempt¹ /ə'tempt/ *v* [T] to make an effort at; try (to do something), esp. without succeeding: *The second question was so difficult I didn't even attempt it.* [+*to-v*] *He attempted to leave but was stopped.* [+*v-ing*] *I attempted walking along the rope.* | *The old lady lived, so her attacker was charged with attempted murder, not murder.*

attempt² *n* [(at, on)] an effort made to do something: *He failed to set a new record, but it was a good attempt.* | *I passed my driving test at the third attempt.* | *After the attempt on her life* (=the attempt to kill her) *she retired from politics.* [+*to-v*] *The government announced big tax cuts in an attempt to regain its lost popularity.* | *Could you at least make an attempt to smile?*

At-ten-bo-rough /'ætənbərə||-bɜ:rəʊ/, Sir David (1926–) an English NATURALIST who has made many films and television programmes about nature and animals all around the world, including a very popular SERIES called *Life on Earth*

Attenborough, Sir Richard (1923–) an English actor and film DIRECTOR, well known for making such films as *Gandhi* and *Cry Freedom*

at-tend /ə'tend/ *v* **1** [I;T] to be present at; go to: *Will you be attending the meeting?* | *The dance was well attended.*

(=there were many people there) | *Please let us know if you are unable to attend.* **2** [I (on, upon); T] to go with or be with, esp. to give protection, help, or care: *The queen had a good doctor attending (on) her.* | *He was constantly attended by his bodyguard.* **3** [I (to)] *fml* to give one's attention: *Are you attending (to what is being said)?* **4** [T] *fml* to happen in connection with; ACCOMPANY (2): *The rescue attempt was attended by difficulties.*

▷ USAGE People who **attend** a play or concert are the **audience**; people who **attend** a religious service are the **congregation**; people who **attend** a game, such as football, are **spectators**. But an **attendant** is someone who is employed to look after a public place or the people who use it: *a swimming-pool attendant*. Someone who works in a shop is an **assistant**, or **shop assistant** (BrE)/**salesclerk** (AmE). <

attend to sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] to direct one's efforts and interest towards; deal with or look after: *Excuse me, but I have an urgent matter to attend to.* | *You'd better attend to the children first — they need their breakfast.*

at-tend-ance /ə'tendəns/ *n* **1** [C;U (at)] the act or fact of attending, usu. regularly: *Attendance at school is demanded by law.* | *a poor attendance record* **2** [S (at)] the number of people present: *an attendance of over 5000* **3** [U (on)] *fml* the act of going with or being with someone: *There is a doctor in attendance on the queen.* **4** **be in attendance** to be a BRIDESMAID at a wedding: *In attendance were his sisters Joanna and Mary.* —see also **dance attendance on** someone (DANCE¹ (5))

at-tend-ant¹ /ə'tendənt/ *n* **1** a person employed to look after and help visitors or customers in a public place: *a car park/museum attendant* —see ATTEND (USAGE) **2** a person who goes with and serves or looks after another **3** a BRIDESMAID: *Attendants were Miss J. Brown and Miss L. Paton.*

attendant² *adj* [(on, upon)] *fml* **1** happening at the same time as, or as a result of, something else: *One of the difficulties attendant on shift work is lack of sleep.* | *bad weather and its attendant problems* **2** on duty to help and look after someone

at-ten-tion¹ /ə'tenʃən/ *n* **1** [U] the act of fixing the mind on something, esp. by watching or listening; full thought and consideration: *You must pay attention to the teacher.* | *Don't let your attention wander.* | *He likes to be the centre of attention.* | *She waved her hand to attract/catch my attention.* | *If you distract his attention, I'll slip out of the room when he isn't looking.* | *She was convicted of driving without due care and attention.* | *He's got a very short attention span.* (=he can only keep his attention on something for a short time) **2** [U] particular care or consideration given to something, esp. with the aim of taking action: *Old cars need a lot of care and attention to keep them working.* | *This letter is for the attention of Mr Robinson.* | *The police should pay more attention to catching criminals.* | *The company is now turning its attention to the luxury car market.* **3** [C usu. pl.] becoming rare a kind or polite act showing respect or love, esp. of a man to a woman: *She felt embarrassed by his persistent attentions.* **4** [U] a military position in which a soldier stands straight and still: *to come to attention* | *to stand at attention* —compare EASE¹ (3) **5 attention all shipping** the phrase used on the British radio before the special report about the weather for people on the sea

attention² also 'shun— *interj* a military order to come to ATTENTION¹ (4)

at-ten-tive /ə'tentɪv/ *adj* **1** taking careful notice; listening carefully: *an attentive audience/class* —opposite **inattentive** **2** [(to)] politely helpful: *He was very attentive to the old lady and did everything for her.* — *~ly adv* — *~ness n* [U]

at-ten-u-ate /ə'tenjueɪt/ *v* [I;T] *fml* or *tech* to (cause to) become thin, weak, less valuable, etc.: *a powerful drug, used in an attenuated form as a medicine* —**-ation** /ə'tenju'eɪʃən/ *n* [U]

at-test /ə'test/ *v fml* **1** [T] to declare to be true, esp. by signing something: *Witnesses attested his account of the attack.* **2** [I+to; T] to be proof of; DEMONSTRATE: *The luxurious furnishings attested (to) the family's wealth.*

at-tes-ta-tion /,æte'steɪʃən/ *n* [C;U] *fml* (the making of) a statement which the maker solemnly declares to be true

attested milk /ˌ.ə.ˈtɪd/ *BrE* || **certified milk** *AmE*— *n* [U] milk produced under official medical control

at-tic /ˈætɪk/ *n* the space in a building, esp. a house, just below the roof, which is often made into a room or used for storing furniture. In the past, attic rooms were often cheap to rent and people with little money often used to live in them. —compare GARRET

At-til-a /əˈtɪlə/ also **Attila the Hun** /ˌ.ə.ˈtɪlə/— (c. 406–53) king of the Huns (= an ancient people from Asia) who attacked and succeeded in controlling parts of the Roman Empire. He is usu. thought of as a cruel and violent man.

at-tire¹ /əˈtaɪə/ *n* [U] *fml* clothes, esp. of a particular type: *in formal attire*

attire² *v* [T (in)] *fml* to put on clothes; dress: *attired in her academic robes*

at-ti-tude /ˈætɪtʃuːd/ || -tʃuːd/ *n* **1** [(to, towards)] a way of feeling or thinking about someone or something, esp. as this influences one's behaviour: *I don't like her (unhelpful) attitude.* | *What is the company's attitude to/towards this idea?* | *a pessimistic attitude of mind* **2** *fml* a position of the body; POSTURE: *He adopted a threatening attitude.* | *to strike an attitude* (=get into an unnatural position for effect) *in front of the mirror*

Att-lee /ˈætlɪ/, **Clement** (1883–1967) a British Labour politician and PRIME MINISTER (1945–51)

at-tor-ney /əˈtɜːni/ || -zɪr-/ *n* *AmE* a lawyer. Lawyers in the US have to be licensed (LICENSE) by the state in which they practise, which allows them to practise in FEDERAL courts, but not necessarily in other states: *She refused to make a statement until she had spoken to her attorney.* —see also POWER OF ATTORNEY

attorney gen-er-al /ˌ.ə.ˈtɜːnɪ/ || -rəl/ *n* **attorneys general** or **attorney generals** [(usu. caps.)] the chief law officer of a state or nation. In Britain the Attorney General is a Member of Parliament and BARRISTER. He is the chief law officer of the Crown and head of the English Bar. In the US the Attorney General is a member of the CABINET appointed by the President. He is the head of the Justice Department and the government's lawyer. —see also LORD ADVOCATE

at-tract /əˈtrækt/ *v* [T] **1** to excite the admiration, interest, or feelings of: *He was attracted by her smile.* | *She's always attracted to* (=she likes) *foreign men.* | *His new book has attracted a lot of attention.* **2** to draw or pull towards oneself; cause to come near: *A magnet attracts iron.* | *Flowers attract bees.* | *The company is trying to attract overseas investors.* | *a proposal that attracted widespread criticism* | *They say that opposites attract.*

at-trac-tion /əˈtrækʃən/ *n* **1** [U] the action or power of attracting: *The idea of travelling to the moon holds little attraction for me.* | *What's the attraction of going* (=why do you want to go) *on the stage?* **2** [C] something which attracts: *Our main attraction on tonight's show is an interview with Clint Eastwood.* —see also TOURIST ATTRACTION

at-trac-tive /əˈtræktɪv/ *adj* **1** able to attract; exciting interest or pleasure: *I find the idea of travel very attractive.* | *an attractive smile/offer/investment* **2** having good looks; pretty or HANDSOME: *an attractive girl/young man* —opposite **unattractive** —see BEAUTIFUL (USAGE) —~ly *adv* —~ness *n* [U]

at-trib-ute¹ /ˈætrɪbjʊt/ *n* a quality forming part of the nature of a person or thing: *Kindness is one of his best attributes.*

at-trib-ute² /əˈtrɪbjʊt/ || -bjət/ *v*

attribute sthg. to sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] to believe (something) to be the result or work of: [+obj/v-ing] *He attributes his success to hard work/to working hard.* | *This song is usually attributed to Schubert.* —**attributable** *adj* [F+to]: *The fall in the price is attributable to a sharp reduction in demand.* —**attribution** /ˌætrɪˈbjʊʃən/ *n* [U] (to)

at-trib-u-tive /əˈtrɪbjʊtɪv/ *adj* (of an adjective, noun, or phrase) describing and coming before a noun: *In "a major success" "major" is an attributive adjective, and in "the school bus" "school" is a noun in attributive position.* —compare PREDICATIVE —~ly *adv*

at-tri-tion /əˈtrɪʃən/ *n* [U] the process of tiring, weakening, or destroying by continual worry, hardship, or repeated attacks: *to wage a war of attrition*

at-tune /əˈtjuːn/ || əˈtuːn/ *v*

attune sbdy./sthg. to sthg. *phr v* [T usu. pass.] to make

used to or ready for: *I'm not really attuned to his way of thinking yet.*

At-wood /ˈæt-wʊd/, **Margaret** (1939–) a Canadian writer of short stories, poems, and NOVELS including *The Handmaid's Tale* and *Cat's Eye*

a-typ-i-cal /eɪˈtɪpɪkəl/ *adj* not typical; different from what is usual: *Her reaction to the drug was atypical.* —~ly /kli/ *adv*

au-ber-gine /ˈəʊbəʒiːn/ || -bə-/ usu. **eggplant** *AmE*— *n* [C;U] (a type of plant with) a large purple fruit that is eaten as a vegetable, usu. cooked, e.g. in MOUSSAKA or RATATOUILLE —see picture at VEGETABLE

au-burn /ˈɔːbən/ || -ərn/ *adj* (esp. of hair) reddish-brown — **auburn** *n* [U]

Auck-land /ˈɔːklænd/ **1** an area of North Island, New Zealand **2** the largest port and city of North Island, New Zealand

au-ction¹ /ˈɔːkʃən/ *n* a public meeting at which land, buildings, or valuable goods are sold to the person who offers the most money. The auctioneer calls out a fairly low price, called the **starting price**, then people show in some way if they are willing to pay more than this, until finally one person offers more than anyone else is willing to pay, and the goods are sold to them: *to bid at a furniture auction* | *They've put the contents of their house up for auction.* | *It was sold at/by auction.* —see also DUTCH AUCTION

au-ction² *v* [T (OFF)] to sell by auction

au-ction bridge /ˌ.ə.ˈtɪʃən/ || -brɪdʒ/ *n* [U] a card game for four people where the players BID² (3) to be allowed to choose the TRUMP suit —see also BRIDGE³, CONTRACT BRIDGE

auc-tio-neer /ˌɔːkʃəˈniə/ *n* a person who is in charge of an auction and who calls out the prices as they are reached

au-ction house /ˌ.ə.ˈtɪʃən/ || -haʊs/ *n* a company which arranges auctions. The most well-known auction houses in Britain and the US are Christie's and Sotheby's

āu-da-cious /ɔːˈdeɪʃəs/ *adj* **1** daring, often to a degree that is considered foolish; ready to take dangerous risks **2** daringly impolite and disrespectful —~ly *adv*

au-dac-i-ty /ɔːˈdæsɪti/ *n* [U] **1** daring bravery **2** daring rudeness; lack of respect: *How you have the audacity to say such a thing, I don't know!*

Au-den /ˈɔːdn/, **W H** (1907–73) an English poet who wrote his most important poems in the 1930s. He became a US citizen in 1946.

au-di-ble /ˈɔːdɪbəl/ *adj* able to be heard: *His voice was barely audible above the noise of the machinery.* —opposite **inaudible** —**bly** *adv* —**bility** /ˌɔːdɪˈbɪləti/ *n* [U]

au-di-ence /ˈɔːdiəns/ || ˈɔː-, ˈɑː-/ *n* **1** [C+sing./pl. v] the people listening to or watching a performance, speech, television show, etc.: *The audience applauded loudly at the end of the concert.* | *Some members of the audience were shocked by the scenes of violence.* | *an appreciative audience* | *a TV programme with an audience of 12 million viewers* | *a show with a lot of audience participation* —see ATTEND (USAGE) **2** [C] a formal meeting between someone powerful and someone less important: *to have/seek/be granted an audience with the Pope* **3** [U] law freedom to be heard and to express one's views in a law court

au-di-o /ˈɔːdiəʊ/ *adj* [A] *tech* connected with or used in the broadcasting or receiving of sound radio signals —compare VIDEO

au-di-o-tape /ˈɔːdiəʊˌteɪp/ *n* [C,U] (a) TAPE¹ (2) used for recording sound on

audio-typ-ist /ˌ.ə.ˈtɪpɪst/ || -tɪst/ *n* a typist who can type letters, etc. which have been recorded onto TAPE¹ (2) —**audiotyping** *n* [U]

audio-vis-u-al /ˌ.ə.ˈtɪpɪst/ || -vɪʒuəl/ *adj* of, using, or being educational materials that provide information which can be seen and heard: *The school's audio-visual equipment includes videos and cassettes.* | *the use of audio-visual aids in teaching*

au-dit /ˈɔːdɪt/ *v* [T] to make an official examination of (the accounts of a business). Every British company must by law keep proper financial records and have them audited regularly by an independent auditor who is a fully trained accountant. —**audit** *n*: *The yearly audit takes place each December.*

au-di-tion¹ /ɔːˈdɪʃən/ *n* a performance given by a singer, actor, etc., as a test of their ability or suitability for a particular job: *They're holding auditions for the part next week.*

audition² *v* [I;T] to give or cause (someone) to give an audition: *He (was) auditioned for the role of Julius Caesar.*

au-di-tor /ˈɔːdɪtər/ *n* **1** a person who audits the accounts of businesses **2** *rare* a person who listens; hearer

au-di-to-ri-um /ˈɔːdɪˈtɔːriəm/ *n* the space in a theatre, hall, etc., where people sit when listening to or watching a performance

au-di-to-ry /ˈɔːdɪtəri/ *adj* *tech* of, by, or for hearing: *auditory difficulties for which an ear operation was necessary*

Au-du-bon /ˈɔːdəbən/ *n* **John James** (1785–1851) an American NATURALIST and painter of North American birds

Au-er-bach /ˈaʊəbɑːk/ *n* **Arnold “Red”** (1917–) a successful BASKETBALL COACH in the US

au fait /,əʊˈfeɪ/ *adj* [F (with)] fully informed; familiar: *I'm new to the job and not quite au fait with all the procedures yet.*

Auf Wie-der-seh-en /aufˈviːdəzeɪən/ *n* the German for “goodbye”

Au-ge-an sta-bles /ɔːˌdʒiːənˈsteɪbəlz/ *n* [P] **1** in Greek MYTHOLOGY, a place where King Augeas kept a large number of cattle, and which had not been cleaned for many years. Hercules cleaned the STABLES by changing the course of a river so that it flowed through them. **2** *clean out/cleanse the Augean stables* *fml* to do a very difficult job

au-ger /ˈɔːgər/ *n* a tool for making large holes in wood or in the ground

aught /ɔːt/ *pron* **1** *old use* anything **2** *for aught* I know/care *lit* for all I know/care; but I do not know/care: *He may be dead for aught I know.*

aug-ment /ɔːɡˈment/ *v* [I;T] *fml* to (cause to) become bigger, more valuable, better, etc.: *He augments his income by teaching in the evenings.* — *~ation* /ˌɔːɡmenˈteɪʃən/ *n* [C;U]

au grat-in /əʊˈɡrætæn/ *n* *Fr* cooked or baked with a covering of cheese or small pieces of bread mixed with butter: *potatoes au gratin*

au-gur /ˈɔːgər/ *v* **1** [T] *lit* to be a sign of (something) in the future **2** [I] **augur well/ill (for)** to be a sign of good/bad things in the future: *This rain augurs well for this year's harvest.*

au-gu-ry /ˈɔːɡjəri/ *n* **1** [C] a sign of coming events **2** [U] the art of telling the future as practised by the ancient Romans

au-gust /ɔːˈɡʌst/ *adj* *lit* noble and grand: *an august gathering* — *~ly adv*

Au-gust /ˈɔːɡəst/ *n* [C;U] (written abbrev. **Aug.**) the eighth month of the year, between July and September. When people think of August, they typically think of summer holidays, no school for children, hot weather, and long days: *It happened on August the fifteenth/the fifteenth of August/(AmE) on August fifteenth.* | *This office opened in August 1991.* | *She started work here last August/the August before last.*

August Bank Hol-i-day /ˌɔːˌɡʌstˈbɒk hɒlɪˈdeɪ/ *n* (in Britain) an official public holiday on the last Monday in August. Many people travel by car to the coast, causing traffic problems in many places.

auk /ɔːk/ *n* a northern seabird with short wings

au lait /əʊˈleɪ/ *adj* *Fr* with milk: *café au lait*

Auld Lang Syne /ˈɔːld læŋˈzeɪn, ˈɔːld-, -ˈsain/ *n* a Scottish song sung by British people when they celebrate the beginning of the new year at 12 o'clock (MIDNIGHT) on December 31st. The first line of the song is: *Should auld (=old) acquaintance be forgot...*

aunt /ɑːnt/ *n* also **aunt-ie**, **aunt-y** /ˈɑːnti/ *infml* — *n* (often *cap.*) **1** the sister of one's father or mother, or the wife of one's uncle: *Take me swimming, Auntie (Jane)!* | *My sister had a baby last week, so I'm now an aunt.* **2** *BrE* a woman who is a friend or neighbour of a small child or its parents — see FATHER (USAGE), UNCLE (USAGE)

► **CULTURAL NOTE** In Britain, many older people feel

offended if children call them by their first name because it does not seem to show enough respect. So, for example, if a woman's name is Mary, she might prefer children to call her “auntie Mary”, or if a man's name is John, he might prefer children to call him “uncle John”. Most younger people feel happy for children to call them just by their first name. ◀

Aunt-ie /ˈɑːnti/ *n* a name for the BBC used humorously to suggest that it is familiar, well-intentioned but rather unadventurous

Aunt Sal-ly /ˌɔːˈsɒli/ *n* *BrE* a person or thing at which people direct their laughter, anger, or general bad feeling (from the old game called Aunt Sally, in which people throw sticks or balls at a wooden model of a woman's head in order to win a prize: *those popular Aunt Sallys, central government and bureaucrats*)

au pair /,əʊˈpeɪ/ *n* also **au pair girl** /ˌɔːˈpeɪˌɡɜːl/ *n* a young foreign woman who lives with a family, usu. in order to learn their language, in return for doing light work in the house or looking after children. In Britain, au pairs are often thought of as sexy and attractive, esp. if they come from Scandinavia or France.

au-ra /ˈɔːrə/ *n* an effect or feeling that seems to surround and come from a person or place: *an aura of decay/mystery in the empty village*

au-ral /ˈɔːrəl/ *adj* *tech* of or related to the sense of hearing: *aural skills* — *~ly adv*

► **USAGE** In language teaching, **aural** is sometimes pronounced /ˈɔːrəl/ to show the difference from **oral** /ˈɔːrəl/, esp. in the phrase **oral/aural**. — see also **ORAL** (USAGE) ◀

Au-rang-zeb, **Aurungzeb** /ˈɔːrəŋzɛb/ (1618–1707) a Mogul EMPEROR of N India

au-re-ole /ˈɔːriəl/ *n* a bright circle of light; HALO

au re-voir /,əʊˈrəˈvwaːr/ *interj* *Fr* till we meet again; goodbye. People sometimes use this expression to someone they love when goodbye seems too final, or as a joke when pretending to know French: “Goodbye, darling.” “No, not goodbye, *au revoir*.” | *Goodbye then, or au revoir as the French say.*

au-ri-cle /ˈɔːrɪkəl/ *n* *tech* **1** the outside part of the ear **2** either of the two spaces in the top of the heart; ATRIUM

au-ric-u-lar /ˈɔːrɪkjʊlər/ *adj* *tech* of or concerning the ear

au-ro-ra /əˈrɔːrə, ɔː-/ *n* **-ras** or **-rae** /rɪː/ bands or arches of coloured light in the night sky seen either in the most northern parts of the world (**aurora borealis** or **northern lights**) or in the most southern parts (**aurora australis** or **southern lights**)

Aurora in Roman MYTHOLOGY, the goddess of the DAWN (=first light of day) (Greek name Eos)

Ausch-witz /ˈaʊʃwɪts, -vɪts/ *n* a town in Poland where the Germans built a CONCENTRATION CAMP during the Second World War. Millions of people, esp. Jews, died in Auschwitz, and its name has come to represent terrible suffering, cruelty, and inhumanity.

aus-cul-ta-tion /ˈɔːskəlˈteɪʃən/ *n* [U] *tech* the act of listening to the sounds coming from the organs inside the body as a method of discovering their health

aus-pic-es /ˈɔːspɪsɪz/ *n* [P] *fml* help, support, and favour: *This conference has been arranged under the auspices of the United Nations.*

aus-pi-cious /ɔːˈspɪʃəs/ *adj* *fml* giving, promising, or showing signs of future success: *an auspicious occasion* — opposite **inauspicious** — *~ly adv*: *The year began auspiciously with good trade figures for January.*

Aus-sie /ˈɔːzi/ *n* *sl* an Australian

Aus-ten /ˈɔːstən/ *n* **Jane** (1775–1817) an English writer who wrote, often humorously, about the way of life of middle class people of her time, in books such as *Pride and Prejudice* and *Emma*

aus-tere /ɔːˈstɪər/ *adj* **1** plain and severe; without comfort or enjoyment: *The monks led an austere life in the mountains.* | *an austere person/manner* **2** without decoration; plain: *the austere grandeur of the old cathedral* — *~ly adv*

aus-ter-i-ty /ɔːˈstɪərɪti/ *n* **1** [U] the quality of being austere **2** [C *usu. pl.*] an austere act or manner: *The group practises religious austerities, such as fasting.* **3** [U] a situation, esp. one resulting from an intentional

government plan, in which there is little money for spending on comfort and enjoyment: *a period of austerity* | *a package of austerity measures aimed at restoring the country's economic health*

Aus-tin¹ /'ɒstɪn||'ɔ:z-/ a once independent popular British car maker, started in 1905: *He still drives an old Austin 1100.*

Austin² *n* the capital of Texas in the US, on the Colorado River. It is the centre of a rich farming area and home to the University of Texas. – see colour map on pages 1374-5

Austin Reed /,ɪ.. 'i-/ one of a group of British men's clothing shops selling expensive, good quality clothes: *an Austin Reed suit*

Aus-tra-la-sia /,ɒstrə'leɪzə,-fə||'ɔ:z-, 'ɑ:z-/ the name given to the group of islands in the Pacific Ocean, including Australia, New Zealand, and Papua New Guinea

Aus-tra-la-sian /,ɒstrə'leɪzən,-fən||'ɔ:z-, 'ɑ:z-/ *n, adj* (a person who comes from or whose parents come) from Australia, New Zealand, or the surrounding islands

Australia



Aus-tra-li-a /ɒ'streɪliə||'ɔ:z-, 'ɑ:z-/ a large country lying between the Indian and Pacific Oceans; capital Canberra; population 16,807,000 (1989). Many of the people who live there are of British DESCENT. ABORIGINES account for about 1% of the population.

Australia Day /'ɪ... 'i-/ (in Australia) a national holiday on or near January 26th each year in memory of the landing of the British in 1788

Aus-tra-li-an /ɒ'streɪliən||'ɔ:z-, 'ɑ:z-/ *n, adj* (a person who comes from or whose parents come) from Australia

Australian Rules foot-ball /'ɪ... 'i... 'i.../ *n* [U] a game played between two teams of 18 players on an OVAL field with an oval ball which is passed by kicking or striking with the hand, the object being to get points by putting the ball between a set of four posts which are placed at either end of the field

Australian Cap-i-tal Ter-ri-to-ry /'ɪ... 'i... 'i.../ [the] an area in SE Australia including the capital of Australia, Canberra, and Jervis Bay; population 258,900 (1986)

Aus-tri-a /'ɒstriə||'ɔ:z-, 'ɑ:z-/ a country in central Europe; capital Vienna – **Austrian** *adj*: *the Austrian mountains*

Aus-tri-an /'ɒstriən||'ɔ:z-, 'ɑ:z-/ *n* 1 [C] a person who comes from or whose parents come from Austria: *He's an Austrian.* 2 [U] the (German) language spoken in Austria: *She's speaking Austrian.*

Austro- see WORD FORMATION

au-tar-chy /'ɔ:tə:ki||-ɑ:r-/ *n* [U] government of a country by one person with unlimited power

au-tar-ky, -chy /'ɔ:tə:ki||-ɑ:r-/ *n* 1 [U] the production by a country of everything that it needs 2 [C] a country that practises this system

au-then-tic /ɔ:'θentɪk/ *adj* 1 known to have been made, painted, written, etc., by the person who is claimed to have done it; GENUINE: *Is that an authentic Roman statue, or a modern copy?* 2 true and deserving to be believed or trusted; dependable: *an authentic testimony* – ~ **ally** /kli/ *adv*

au-then-tic-ate /ɔ:'θentɪkeɪt/ *v* [T] to prove (something) to be true or authentic: *This painting has been authenticated as a Rembrandt.* – **-ation** /ɔ:'θentɪ'keɪʃən/ *n* [U]

au-then-tic-i-ty /,ɔ:'θen'tɪsɪti/ *n* [U] the quality of being true or authentic: *The results of these chemical tests have cast doubt on the authenticity of this painting.* (=shown that it may not be authentic)

au-thor¹ /'ɔ:θə/ **au-thor-ess** /'ɔ:θərəs/ *fem. rare – n* 1 the writer of a book, newspaper article, play, poem, etc.: *a prolific author* 2 the person who creates or begins something, esp. an idea or plan: *the chief author of the government's youth training programme*

author² *v* [T] *esp. AmE* to produce or begin (something); be the AUTHOR¹ (2) of: *The senator authored the bill to help the unemployed.*

au-thor-i-tar-i-an /ɔ:,θɒrɪ'teəriən||'ɔ:θɑ:z-, 'ə,θɑ:z-/ *adj* believing or demanding that rules and laws must always be obeyed whether or not they are right: *an authoritarian style of government* – **authoritarian** *n*: *He's a strict authoritarian.* – ~ **ism** *n* [U]

au-thor-i-ta-tive /ɔ:'θɒrɪtətɪv, ə-||ə'θɑ:rətɪtɪv, 'ə,θɑ:z-/ *adj* 1 having or showing authority; demanding or deserving respect and obedience: *an authoritative manner/tone* 2 generally regarded as providing knowledge or information that can be trusted: *an authoritative dictionary* – compare DEFINITIVE (2) – ~ **ly** *adv*

au-thor-i-ty /ɔ:'θɒrɪti, ə-||ə'θɑ:z-, 'ə,θɑ:z-/ *n* 1 [U] (a position that gives someone) the ability, power, or right to control and command: *Who is in authority here?* | *He enjoys exercising his authority over his staff.* | *She thinks that young people have no respect for authority.* [+to-v] *He doesn't have the necessary authority to make this sort of decision.* 2 [C often pl.] a person or group with this power or right, esp. in public affairs: *The government is the highest authority in the country.* | *the local education/water authority* | *The authorities in Spain have refused to allow him to enter the country.* | *to approach the proper authorities for permission* – see also LOCAL AUTHORITY 3 [C usu. sing.] a paper giving this power or right: *May I see your authority?* 4 [U] power to influence: *Although she has no official position in the party, her opinions carry a lot of authority.* 5 [C(on)] a person, book, etc., whose knowledge or information is dependable, good, and respected: *He is a leading authority on plant diseases.*

au-thor-i-za-tion also **-isation** *BrE* /,ɔ:'θərəɪ'zeɪʃən||'ɔ:θərə-/ *n* [C;U] (a paper giving) right or official power to do something: *I can't spend this money without authorization from Head Office.* [+to-v] *Do you have the owner's authorization to drive this car?*

au-thor-ize, also **-ise** *BrE* /'ɔ:'θəraɪz/ *v* [T] to give formal permission to or for: *Who authorized the payment of this bill?* [+obj+to-v] *I've been authorized (by the court) to repossess this property.*

authorized cap-i-tal /,ɪ... 'i.../ *n* [U] *tech* the largest amount of money a company is allowed to raise by selling SHARES¹ (2) to the general public

Authorized Ver-sion /,ɪ... 'i.../ *esp. BrE* || also **King James Version** – [the] the English translation of the Bible made in England in 1611, when James the First was king

au-thor-ship /'ɔ:θəʃɪp||'ɔ:θər-/ *n* [U] 1 the name of the person who wrote a book, play, poem, etc.; IDENTITY of the AUTHOR: *a book of unknown authorship* 2 the profession of writing books

au-tis-m /'ɔ:tɪzəm/ *n* [U] an illness of the mind, esp. in children, in which the imagination becomes too important and good personal relationships cannot be formed

au-tis-tic /ɔ:'tɪstɪk/ *adj* suffering from autism: *autistic children* – ~ **ally** /kli/ *adv*

au-to /'ɔ:təu/ *n -tos* *esp. AmE* a car: *second-hand autos* | *the auto industry*

auto- see WORD FORMATION

au-to-bi-og-ra-phy /,ɔ:təbaɪ'ɒgrəfi||-'ɑ:g-/ *n* 1 [C] an account of a person's life written by that person 2 [U] this branch of literature – compare BIOGRAPHY – **-phical** /,ɔ:təbaɪə'græfɪkəl/, – **-phic** *adj* – **-phically** /kli/ *adv*

au-toc-ra-cy /ɔ:'tɒkrəsi||ɔ:'tɑ:z-/ *n* 1 [U] government by one person with unlimited power 2 [C] a country, group, etc., ruled in this way

au-to-crāt /'ɔ:təkræt/ *n* 1 a ruler with unlimited power 2 a person who gives orders to others without considering their wishes – ~ **ic** /,ɔ:tə'krætɪk/ *adj* – ~ **ically** /kli/ *adv*

au-to-cross /'ɔ:təʊkrɒs||-krɒs/ *n* [U] *BrE* the sport of racing motor cars around open fields or country rather than on roads

au-to-cue /'ɔ:təʊkju:/ *n* a machine similar to a TELEPROMPTER

au-to-graph¹ /'ɔ:təgrɑ:f||-græf/ *n* a person's name in their own writing (SIGNATURE), esp. the signature of someone famous. Some people, esp. children, collect the autographs of famous people: *The little boys asked the footballer for his autograph.*

autograph² *v* [T] (esp. of a famous person) to sign (a letter, statement, book, etc.) with one's own name to show that one has written it: *an autographed copy of a book*

au-to-harp /'ɔ:təʊhɑ:p||-hɑ:rp/ *n* a musical instrument played by pressing a button for a combination of notes (CHORD) and then passing one's fingers over the strings

au-to-im-mune dis-ease /'ɔ:təʊɪmjʊ:n dɪ'zi:z/ *n* an illness or unhealthy condition in which substances which usu. fight against illness are produced by the body and damage or destroy one or more of its own substances

au-to-mat /'ɔ:təmæt/ *n* *tdmk* a type of American restaurant where food can be obtained from machines into which coins are dropped. Automats were popular in the 1950s and 60s but are now rare.

au-to-mate /'ɔ:təmeɪt/ *v* [I;T] to make (a business or industrial process) work by machinery with little or no work by people: *a fully automated production line*

au-to-mat-ic¹ /'ɔ:tə'mætɪk/ *adj* **1** (esp. of a machine) able to work or move by itself without operation by a person: *This heating system has an automatic temperature control.* | *an automatic pistol/rifle* (=able to fire continuously because the bullets are loaded automatically) **2** done without conscious thought, esp. as a habit: *The movements needed to ride a bicycle soon become automatic.* | *an automatic response* **3** certain to happen: *an automatic increase in pay every year* — *~ally* /kli/ *adv*

automatic² *n* a machine or apparatus, such as a car or a gun, that operates automatically — see picture at GUN

automatic pi-lot /'ɔ:tə'mætɪk/ *n* also **autopilot** *n* an instrument that guides aircraft, spacecraft, ships, etc., without needing human operation: (fig.) *She's absolutely exhausted; she's just working on automatic pilot.*

Automatic Tel-ler Ma-chine /'ɔ:tə'mætɪk/ *n* also **ATM** *n* *AmE* for CASH DISPENSER

automatic trans-mis-sion /'ɔ:tə'mætɪk/ *n* [U] a system which operates the GEARS of a car automatically, so that the driver does not need to move them by hand. Most cars in the US have automatic transmission but it is still rare in Britain: *My car has automatic transmission.*

au-to-ma-tion /'ɔ:tə'meɪʃən/ *n* [U] the use of machines that need little or no human control, esp. in place of workers: *redundancies owing to increased automation*

au-tom-a-ton /'ɔ:tə'mætən||'ɔ:tə-/ *n* -*ta* /tə/ or -*tons* **1** a machine that moves or works by itself, esp. a ROBOT **2** *derog* a person who acts without thought or feeling, like a machine

au-to-mo-bile /'ɔ:tə'məbɪl||-məʊ-/ *n* *fml*, esp. *AmE* a car: *the automobile industry*

Automobile As-so-ci-a-tion /'ɔ:tə'məbɪl/ *n* [the] see AA²

au-ton-o-mous /'ɔ:tə'nəməs||'ɔ:tə-/ *adj* having autonomy: *an autonomous region* — *~ly* *adv*

automatic ner-vous sys-tem /'ɔ:tə'mætɪk/ *n* *med* the part of the nervous system which controls those parts of the body which do not require conscious effort, such as the DIGESTION, the CIRCULATION, and the production of HORMONES

au-ton-o-my /'ɔ:tə'nəmi||'ɔ:tə-/ *n* [U] the right of self-government or management of one's own affairs, esp. of a state or group within a country: *a political system that allows a high degree of local autonomy*

au-to-pi-lot /'ɔ:təʊ'paɪlət/ *n* see AUTOMATIC PILOT

au-top-sy /'ɔ:təpsi||-təp-/ *n* a POSTMORTEM: *to carry out an autopsy on the victim*

au-to-sug-ges-tion /'ɔ:təʊsə'dʒestʃən||-səg'dʒe-, -sə'dʒe-/ *n* [U] the influencing of one's feelings about things, physical condition, etc., by suggestion coming from within oneself rather than from another person or from the outside world: *Many forms of relaxation use techniques of autosuggestion.* — *-tive* *adj*

au-tumn /'ɔ:təm/ also **fall** *AmE* — *n* [C;U] the season between summer and winter, when leaves change colour and fruits become ripe: *I go on holiday in the autumn.* | *a cold autumn* | *last autumn* | *autumn colours* (=brown, orange, gold, etc.) — see colour picture on page 1211

au-tum-nal /'ɔ:təmnəl/ *adj* of, like, or in autumn — *~ly* *adv*

autumn state-ment /'ɔ:təm'steɪmənt/ *n* an official printed statement produced for parliament by the British Government every year, usu. in November, about the future of the ECONOMY and the Government's spending plans for the next three years

aux-il-i-a-ry¹ /'ɔ:g'zɪljəri, ɔ:k-||'ɔ:g'zɪljəri, -'zɪljəri/ *adj* providing (additional) help or support, esp. with lower rank or of less importance: *auxiliary nursing staff* | *an auxiliary petrol tank*

auxiliary² *n* **1** *fml* or *tech* a helper; ASSISTANT **2** [*usu. pl.*] a member of a group of foreign soldiers in the service of a country at war **3** an auxiliary verb

auxiliary verb /'ɔ:g'zɪljəri/ *n* *tech* a verb that is used with another verb to show differences such as tense, person, and VOICE¹ (4). In English the auxiliary verbs are **be**, **do**, and **have** (as in *I am running, I didn't go, they have gone*) and all the MODALS

av *written abbrev. for:* average

a-vail¹ /ə'veɪl/ *n* [U] good result; advantage; use: *We tried and tried, but it was all to no avail.*

avail² *v* **1** [*I usu. in questions and negatives*] *lit* to be of use or advantage: *It avails nothing to cry.* **2** [*I*] **avail oneself of** to make good or profitable use of: *I availed myself of this opportunity to improve my English.*

a-vai-la-ble /ə'veɪləbəl/ *adj* [(to)] able to be had, obtained, used, seen, etc.: *I'm sorry, sir, those shoes are not available in your size.* | *Every available ambulance was rushed to the scene of the accident.* | *Details of the competition are available from our head office.* | *Is the new timetable available yet?* | *We want to make our products available to a wider market.* | *We tried to find out the Senator's opinion on this matter, but he was not available for comment.* — opposite **unavailable** — *-bly* *adv* — *-bility* /ə'veɪlə'bɪlɪti/ *n* [U] : *limited availability*

av-a-lanche /'ævələʃn||-ləntʃ/ *n* a large mass of snow and ice crashing down the side of a mountain: *He was swept away in an avalanche.* | (fig.) *We received an avalanche of inquiries.*

Av-a-lon, Avallon /'ævəlɒn||-ləʃn/ a LEGENDARY holy island, thought by some people to be near Glastonbury in SW England, where, according to the old stories, the wounded King Arthur was carried after his last battle — see also ARTHURIAN LEGEND

av-ant-garde /'ævɔ:ŋ 'gɑ:d-||'ævɔ:ŋ 'gɑ:rd/ *n* [(the) S+*sing./pl. v*] the writers, painters, musicians, etc., whose work is based on the newest ideas and methods: *a member of the avant-garde* — **avant-garde** *adj* : *an avant-garde novelist*

av-a-ri-ce /'ævərɪs/ *n* [U] *fml* extreme eagerness and desire to get or keep wealth; GREED — **ricious** /'ævə'rɪʃəs/ *adj* — **riciously** *adv*

av-a-tar /'ævə'tɑ:ʃ/ *n* **1** the appearance of a Hindu god, esp. Vishnu, in human or animal form: *Krishna was an avatar of the god Vishnu.* **2** a person who represents (an idea, etc.) completely; EMBODIMENT

Ave *written abbrev. for:* AVENUE (1): 109 Lexington Ave

Ave-bu-ry /'eɪvbəri||-beri/ a prehistoric SITE in Wiltshire, S England, where there is a large ring of STANDING STONES

a-venge /ə'vendʒ/ *v* [T] *esp. lit* **1** to get satisfaction for (something bad done to oneself, one's family, etc.) by punishing the person who did it: *They avenged his death by burning the village.* **2** [(on)] to punish someone for something bad done to (oneself, one's family, etc.): *He swore to avenge his brother.* | *They avenged themselves on their enemy.* — compare VENGEANCE — **avenger** *n*

A-ven-gers /ə'vendʒəz||-ərz/ , **The** a popular British television programme of the 1960s, whose main characters were **Steed**, a very well dressed wealthy gentleman, and his young female companion, Emma Peel. They fought against crime and criminals, and are esp. remembered for their skill at fighting with their hands.

av-e-nue /'ævɪnju:||-nu:/ *n* **1** (*written abbrev. Ave.*) a broad street in a town, sometimes having trees on each side: *Fifth Avenue* **2** a road or way between two rows

of trees, esp. one that leads to a house **3** a means of reaching a desired result: *They explored every avenue (=tried every method) but could not find a solution.*

a-ver /ə'vɜːr/ *v* -rr- [T+obj/that] *fml* to state forcefully; declare

av-e-rage¹ /'ævərɪdʒ/ *n* **1** [C] the amount calculated by adding together several quantities and then dividing by the number of quantities: *The average of 3, 8, and 10 is 7.* | *Wages for industrial workers have increased by an average of 7½%.* **2** [C;U] a level or standard regarded as usual or ordinary: *His school work is well above/below average.* | *We receive 20 letters a day on average.* | *a higher than average attendance*

average² *adj* **1** [A no comp.] calculated by making an average of a number of quantities: *What is the average rainfall for July?* | *Average earnings in the country are about \$500 a month.* **2** of the usual or ordinary kind: *There was nothing special about the film – it was only average.* | *the average man in the street* | *of average height/intelligence*

average³ *v* **1** [L] to be as an average: *Our mail averages 20 letters a day.* **2** [T no pass.] to do, get, or have as an average or usual quantity: *I average eight hours' work a day.* **3** [T (OUT)] to calculate the average of (figures)

average out *phr v* [I (at, to)] *infml* to come to an average or ordinary level or standard, esp. after being higher or lower: *Months of high and low sales average out over the year.* | *The weekly profits averaged out at 20%.*

a-verse /ə'vɜːs| -ɜːrs/ *adj* [F+to] *fml* or *humor* not liking; opposed: *I don't smoke cigarettes, but I'm not averse to (having) the occasional cigar.*

a-ver-sion /ə'vɜːʃən|ə'vɜːrʒən/ *n* **1** [S;U (to)] a feeling of strong dislike or unwillingness: *She has an aversion to cats/to doing the housework.* **2** [C] a person or thing that causes this feeling: *Housework is my pet aversion.*

aversion ther-a-py /-ˈɪ-.../ *n* [U] the treatment of a bad habit or behaviour pattern (e.g. ALCOHOLISM) by its association with unpleasant sensations

a-vert /ə'vɜːt| -ɜːrt/ *v* [T] **1** to prevent (something unpleasant) from happening: *An accident was averted by his quick thinking.* **2** [(from)] *fml* to turn away (one's eyes, thoughts, etc.): *She averted her eyes/her gaze from the terrible sight.*

a-vi-a-ry /'eɪvɪəri||'eɪvɪəri/ *n* a large cage or enclosed space for keeping birds in

a-vi-a-tion /,eɪvɪ'eɪʃən||,eɪ-, 'æ-/ *n* [U] **1** the science or practice of flying in aircraft **2** the aircraft industry

a-vi-a-tor /'eɪvɪeɪtə||'eɪ-, 'æ-/ *n* *old use* the pilot of an aircraft

av-id /'ævɪd/ *adj* [(for)] extremely eager or keen: *an avid reader* | *avid for success* – *~ly adv* – *~ity* /ə'vɪdɪti/ *n* [U]

Av-ie-more /,ævɪ'mɔːr/ a town in N central Scotland, a centre for winter sports, esp. skiing (SKI²)

A-vis /'eɪvɪs/ *tdmk* a car rental company which has offices at many international airports

av-o-ca-do /,ævə'kaɪdəʊ- / also **avocado pear** /,..... ' / – *n* -dos or -does a green or purple-black tropical fruit with a large stone and smooth oily flesh, usu. eaten as the first part of a meal: *avocado vinaigrette*

av-o-ca-tion /,ævə'keɪʃən/ *n fml* something done for pleasure; a HOBBY

a-void /ə'vɔɪd/ *v* [T] **1** to keep away from or keep out of the way of, esp. on purpose: *I swerved to the side of the road to avoid the other car.* | *To avoid the city centre, turn right here.* | *These drugs are very dangerous; I'd avoid them like the plague* (=never go near them) *if I were you.* **2** to prevent (something) from happening, or stop oneself from doing (something): *I swerved to the side of the road to avoid a collision.* | *Nuclear war is to be avoided at all costs.* [+v-ing] *He tried to avoid answering my questions.* – *~able adj*

a-void-ance /ə'vɔɪdəns/ *n* [U] the act of avoiding: *avoidance of danger* | *a scheme for tax avoidance* (=avoiding the payment of tax, but by legal means)

av-oir-du-pois /,ævədə'pɔɪz, ,ævwɑːdjuː'pwaː||,ævərdə'pɔɪz/ *n* [U] the system of weights in which the standard measures are the OUNCE, POUND, and TON: *16 ounces avoirdupois* – compare METRIC SYSTEM; see TABLE 2

Av-on¹ /'eɪvən/ **1** a COUNTY in SW England **2** [the] one

of various English rivers, esp. the one that flows through Stratford-upon-Avon

Av-on² /'eɪvən||-vɑːn/ *n tdmk* an American company which sells products for the skin and hair

A-von la-dy /'eɪvən ,leɪdi||-vɑːn-/ *n* a woman who sells products made by Avon by calling at people's houses. Many people remember an old advertisement for Avon products, in which a woman rings at a front door and says "Avon calling!"

a-vow /ə'vaʊ/ *v* [T] *fml* to state openly; admit: *The prisoner avowed his guilt.* [+that] *He avowed that he was guilty.* | *Their avowed aim* (=which they have openly admitted) *is to overthrow the government.* – *~al n* [C;U]

a-vun-cu-lar /ə'vʌŋkjʊlə/ *adj* of or like an uncle, esp. by being kind and caring: *his friendly avuncular manner* – *~ly adv*

AWACS /'eɪwæks/ *n* [U] Airborne Warning and Control System; an American military aircraft which looks at where enemy armies are and helps direct what American soldiers should do to attack or defend against them

a-wait /ə'weɪt/ *v* [T] **1 fml** to wait for: *I am awaiting their reply.* | *She is in prison awaiting trial.* | *a long-awaited holiday* **2** to be ready for: *A warm welcome awaits you.* – see WAIT (USAGE)

a-wake¹ /ə'weɪk/ *adj* [F] not asleep: *She lay awake for hours thinking about him.* | *The children are still wide awake.* (=not at all sleepy) | (fig.) *The company is awake to* (=conscious of) *these new developments.*

a-wake² *v* **awoke** /ə'wəʊk/ or **awakened, awoken** /ə'wəʊkən/ [I;T] **1** to (cause to) stop sleeping; wake: *The noise awoke me.* | *I awoke to the sound of birds chirruping.* | *He awoke to find himself alone.* (=When he awoke, he found he was alone.) **2** [(to)] to (cause to) become conscious or active: *His letter awoke old memories.* | *They awoke to the danger of the situation too late to do anything about it.* – see WAKE (USAGE)

a-wak-en /ə'weɪkən/ *v* [I;T] to awake: *I was awakened by their shouts.* – see WAKE (USAGE)

awaken *sbdy. to sthg. phr v* [T] to cause to understand or become conscious of: *We must awaken people to the need to protect our environment.*

a-wak-en-ing /ə'weɪkənɪŋ/ *n* **1** the act of waking from sleep: (fig.) *a spiritual awakening* **2** **rude awakening** a sudden consciousness of an unpleasant or threatening situation

a-ward¹ /ə'wɔːd||-ɔːrd/ *v* [T (to)] to give, esp. as the result of an official decision: *The referee awarded a free kick.* | *The judge awarded substantial damages to the victims of the explosion.* [+obj(i)+obj(d)] *She's been awarded a scholarship to study at Oxford.*

award² *n* something, esp. a prize or money, given as the result of an official decision: *an award of £5000 to those injured in the explosion* | *The award for this year's best actress went to Meryl Streep.*

a-ware /ə'weə/ *adj* **1** [F] having knowledge or understanding: [+of] *He said that the government was acutely* (=very) *aware of the problem.* [+that/wh-] *I'm well aware that this is a risky investment/well aware how risky this investment is.* – opposite **unaware** **2** [after adv] having knowledge or consciousness of the stated type: *politically/artistically aware* **3** showing understanding of oneself, one's surroundings, and other people; SENSITIVE: *She's a very aware person.* – *~ness n* [U]

a-wash /ə'wɒʃ||ə'wɔːʃ, ə'wɔːʃ/ *adj* [F (with)] level with and washed over by waves: *The river overflowed until the streets were awash.* | (fig.) *The country is awash with oil.* (=has a large amount of it)

a-way¹ /ə'weɪ/ *adv* **1** [(from)] from here or from there; to or at another place: *Go away!* | *They're away on holiday.* (compare *They're out for lunch.*) | *The ship moved slowly away from the shore.* | *The police tried to keep people away from the accident.* **2** [after n] at a stated distance in space or time: *He lives three miles away.* | *The exams are still six weeks away.* **3** into a safe or enclosed place: *I've put the milk away (in the fridge).* **4** so as to be gone or used up: *The sounds died away.* | *Their house was swept away in the flood.* | *He gave all his money away.* | *Don't throw this opportunity away.* | *They danced the night away.* (=danced all night) | *He cut away the dead branch.* **5** all the time; continuously: *They worked away all day.* | *I heard him hammering away.* **6** **away with!**

lit take away; remove: *Away with him, guards!* — see also **far and away** (FAR¹), **right away** (RIGHT⁵) **7 get away (with you)!** *infml, esp. BrE* You can't deceive me!; I don't believe you! (used in answer to something the speaker thinks is improbable or untrue): "I'm getting married." "Get away (with you)!" **8 get away from it all** *infml* to escape from the problems and worries of daily life, esp. by taking a holiday: *You need to go away for a while and get away from it all.*

away² *adj* [A] (of a sports match) played at the place, sports field, etc., of one's opponent: *an away match* — opposite **home**

A-way-day /ə'weɪdeɪ/ *n tdmk* a type of British Rail ticket sold at a reduced price, for use on a day out for pleasure, rather than by business travellers

awe¹ /ɔː/ *n* [U] a feeling of respect mixed with fear and wonder: *The sight filled us with awe.* | *He always stood in awe of his father.*

awe² *v* present participle **aweing** [T (into)] *fml* to fill with awe: *They were awed into silence by the enormous ancient buildings.*

awe-in-spir-ing /ɪ·,·,·/ *adj* causing feelings of awe — *~ly adv*

awe-some /ɪˈɔːsəm/ *adj* **1** expressing or causing feelings of awe: *an awesome account of the terrors of war* | *an awesome achievement/task/responsibility* **2** *AmE infml* very good; MARVELLOUS

awe-struck /ɪˈɔːstrʌk/ also **awe-strick-en** /ɪˈɔːstriːkən/ — *adj* filled with, made silent by, or showing awe: *We sat in awe-struck silence after hearing the truth at last.*

aw-ful /ɔːfəl/ *adj* **1** very bad or unpleasant; terrible; shocking: *The pain was awful.* | *What awful weather!* | *It must have been awful for you/an awful dilemma for you.* | *It was awful to see him in such pain.* | *an awful thing to say* | *It would be awful if they found out.* **2** [A] *infml* (used to add force) very great: *I've got an awful lot of work to do.* | *He made an awful fuss about me being late.* **3** *lit or old use* awe-inspiring — *~ness n* [U]

aw-ful-ly /ɔːfəli/ *adv infml* very: *awfully cold* | *awfully nice*

a-while /ə'waɪl/ *adv esp. lit* for a short time: *We rested awhile at the side of the road.*

awk-ward /ɔːkwəd/ — *ward/ adj* **1** lacking skill in moving (parts of) the body easily; CLUMSY: *an awkward movement* | *He's rather awkward with his hands.* **2** difficult to use or handle: *It's rather an awkward shape.* | *I had to bang in the nail at a rather awkward angle.* [+to-v] *It's an awkward machine to use.* **3** causing difficulty or uncomfortable feelings; inconvenient or embarrassing: *Our visitors came at an awkward time.* [+to-v] *It was an awkward time to call.* | *a long awkward silence* | *He made things (=the situation) very awkward for me taking me into his confidence.* | *They've been asking some very awkward questions.* | *Don't go too near the dog — he's an awkward customer.* (=is dangerous to deal with) **4** unwilling to help or agree; PERVERSE (2): *Don't be so awkward — we've got to get this finished by tonight.* **5** **awkward age** the time when a child is changing into an adult and is known as an ADOLESCENT: *He'll soon be reaching that awkward age — too young to do all the things he wants to do and too old to act like a baby.* — *~ly adv* — *~ness n* [U]

awl /ɔːl/ *n* a small pointed tool, often with a broad handle, for making holes in leather

aw-ning /ɔːnɪŋ/ *n* a movable soft covering, esp. one made of CANVAS, used to protect shop windows, ships' DECKS, etc., from sun or rain

a-woke /ə'wəʊk/ *past tense* of AWAKE

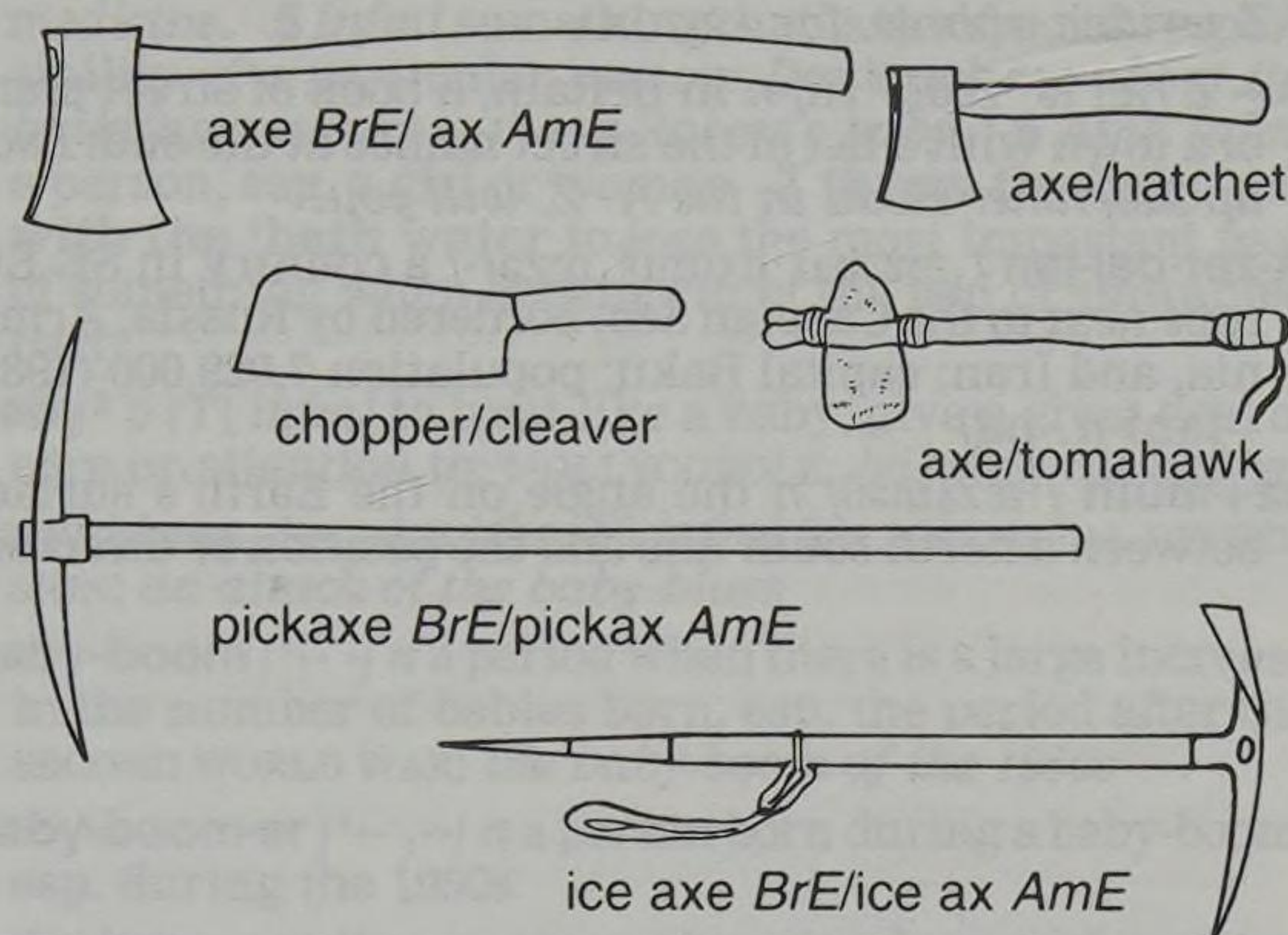
a-wok-en /ə'wəʊkən/ *past participle* of AWAKE

A.W.O.L. /,eɪ ˌdʌbəlˌjuː əʊ 'el, 'eɪwəl/ — *wɔːl/ adj* [F] *infml* absent without leave; (of a member of the armed forces) absent from one's place of duty without permission — compare MIA

a-wry /ə'raɪ/ *adj, adv* [F] **1** not in the way that was planned or intended; wrong: *a police operation that went badly awry* **2** not in the correct position or shape; twisted; bent.

axe¹ also **ax** *AmE* /æks/ *n* axes /'æksɪz/ **1** a tool with a heavy metal blade on the end of a long handle, used to cut down trees or split logs — see also HATCHET **2** **get the axe** *infml* a to be dismissed from one's job b (of a plan)

axes



to be ended because of lack of money or official support: *Several of our plans got the axe when the new government came in.* **3** **have an 'axe to grind** *infml* to have personal and often selfish reasons for one's actions or statements: *The judge's criticisms of this policy must be taken seriously because he has no political axe to grind.* (=he does not have political reasons for finding fault)

axe² also **ax** *AmE v* [T] *infml* to put an end suddenly and usu. without warning to (a job, plans, etc.): *750 jobs were axed as a result of government spending cuts.*

ax-i-om /'æksɪəm/ *n* a rule, principle, etc. that is generally accepted as true

ax-i-o-mat-ic /,æksɪə'mætɪk/ *adj fml* not needing to be proved; SELF-EVIDENT — *~ally* /kli/ *adv*

ax-is /'æksɪs/ *n* axes /'æksɪz/ *tech* **1** the usu. imaginary line around which a spinning body moves: *The Earth rotates about an axis between the North Pole and the South Pole.* — see picture at GLOBE **2** a line (e.g. across the middle of a circle) that divides a regular shape into two equal parts **3** a fixed line against which the positions of points are measured, esp. the HORIZONTAL (=flat) and VERTICAL (=upright) lines around a GRAPH — see picture at CHART

Axis also **Axis pow-ers**, **Axis coun-tries** /ɪ·,·,·/ *n* [the] the countries, including Germany, Italy, and Japan, who fought together during the Second World War against the ALLIES.

ax-le /'æksəl/ *n* a bar with a wheel on either end, around which the wheels turn or which turns with the wheels, as on a car — see picture at BICYCLE

Ax-min-ster /'æksmɪnstə/ *n tdmk.* any of several kinds of carpet made in the town of Axminster, Devon, by a machine process which produces the effect of being hand-made

ay-ah /'aɪə/ *n IndE & PakE* an Indian nurse who looks after children

a-ya-tol-lah /,aɪə'tələ/ — 'təʊ-/ *n* a religious leader among the Shiite Muslims: *Ayatollah Khomeini*

Ayatollah Khomeini see KHOMEINI

Ayck-bourn /'eɪkbɔːn/ — bɔːrn/, **Al-an** /'ælən/ (1939–) an English writer of humorous plays such as *The Norman Conquests* and *A Chorus of Disapproval*

aye¹ /eɪ, aɪ/ *adv ScotE, esp. old use or poet* always; continually

aye² /aɪ/ *adv dial or lit* (often used when voting or by sailors) yes: *Aye, aye, sir; I'll do that at once.* | *All in favour say "Aye".*

aye³ /aɪ/ *n* a vote or voter in favour of an idea, plan, law, etc. — opposite **nay**

Ayer /eə/ — A J (1910–89) an English PHILOSOPHER who wrote *Language, Truth and Logic* in 1936

Ayers Rock /,eəz 'rɒk/ — ,eəz 'ræk/ an extremely large rock, part of a group, in SW Northern Territory, Australia. It is thought to be the world's largest MONOLITH and very popular as a tourist attraction because of its beautiful colours.

Ayles-bu-ry /'eɪlzbəri/ — beri/ a town in England, where the local government for Buckinghamshire is based

Ayr-shire /'eəʃə/ — 'eər-/ **1** a former COUNTY in SW Scotland, now part of Strathclyde REGION **2** a brown and

white cow of a breed that gives a large quantity of milk

AZ *written abbrev. for ARIZONA*

A-Z /,eɪ tə 'zed||-'zɪz/ *n* in Britain, a book of street plans of a town with a list of the street names at the end: *Look up Mortimer Road in the A-Z, will you?*

A-zer·bai·jan /,æzəbaɪ'dʒɑ:n||,ɑzər-/ a country in SE Europe next to the Caspian Sea, bordered by Russia, Armenia, and Iran; capital Baku; population 7,029,000 (1989) —**jani** *n, adj*

az·i·muth /'æzɪməθ/ *n* the angle on the Earth's surface between a north-south line and the position or direction

of something, esp. a star, seen from a place on the Earth

A-zores /ə'zɔ:z||'eɪzɔ:rz/ [*the*] a group of islands in the Atlantic, west of Portugal

AZT /,eɪ zed 'tɪz||-'zɪz-/ *n* a medicine used by people with AIDS to slow down the progress of the illness

Az·tecs /'æzteks/ [*the*] an Indian people who lived in Mexico and were conquered (CONQUER) by the Spanish in 1519. They are remembered esp. for their great riches, esp. gold, and their fine buildings.

az·ure /'æzər, 'æzjʊər, 'æzjʊər||'æzər/ *adj* having a bright blue colour, like the sky —**azure** *n* [U]

B

B, b /bi:/ **B's, b's** or **Bs, bs** the second letter of the English alphabet

b *written abbrev. for:* born: *b* 1885

B **1** a note in Western music; the musical KEY¹ (4) based on this note **2** the second level of quality, e.g. as a mark given to student's work, usu. meaning good but not excellent: *I got a B for/in English.* —see also B-MOVIE, B-SIDE, GRADE¹ (3) **3** (of a pencil) having a soft centre and producing a dark black mark; 2B is softer than B **4** one of the common blood groups

B-2 bomb-er /bi: tʊ: 'bɒməʳ/ -'bɑ:z/ *n* a STEALTH BOMBER

B-52 /,bi: fɪftɪ 'tʊ:z/ *n* a large military aircraft made in the US and used by the US to drop bombs in the Vietnam War and the Gulf War

BA /,bi: 'eɪ/ *abbrev. for:* **1** Bachelor of Arts; (a title for someone who has) a first university degree: *Susan Potter, BA* | *He has a BA.* —compare BSc **2** BRITISH AIRWAYS **3** BUENOS AIRES

baa /ba:/ *v* **baaed** [I] to make the sound that a sheep or lamb makes —**baa** *n*

Baa, Baa, Black Sheep /, - . ' . / a NURSERY RHYME (=an old song or poem for children):

*Baa, baa, black sheep,
Have you any wool?
Yes sir, yes sir,
Three bags full.*

Baa-der-Mein-hof gang /,baɪdə 'maɪnhɒf ,gæŋ/ -dər 'maɪnhəʊf/ [*the*] an extreme left-wing TERRORIST group in W Germany, also called the **Red Army Faction**, who carried out some terrorist acts in W Germany in the 1970s. The group is named after two of its early leaders, Andreas Baader (1943–77) and Ulrike Meinhoff (1934–76).

Ba-bar /'bɑ:bɑ:ʳ/ an elephant in stories for children by Jean de Brunhoff

Bab-bage /'bæbɪdʒ/, **Charles** (1792–1871) an English MATHEMATICIAN who drew the plans for a machine on which the modern computer is based

bab-ble¹ /'bæbəl/ *v* **1** [I;T] to say or talk quickly and foolishly or in a way that is hard to understand: *She babbled her thanks in a great hurry.* | *I have no idea what he was babbling on about.* | *a babbling idiot* **2** [I] to make continuous sounds like water running gently over rounded stones: *a babbling brook* —**bler** *n*

babble² *n* [S] **1** a confused sound of many people talking at the same time: *a babble of voices* **2** a sound like that of a stream running gently over rounded stones: *the babble of running water*

babe /beɪb/ *n* **1** *lit* a baby: *a babe in arms* (=that needs to be carried) **2** *AmE infml* (used for addressing a usu. young woman): *Hi, babe.* **3** **babe in the woods** *AmE* a person who can be easily deceived; a NAIVE person: *Many people are like babes in the woods when it comes to insurance scams.*

ba-bel /'beɪbəl/ 'beɪ-, 'bæ-/ *n* [S;U] a scene of confusion, disorder, and the noise of many voices (from story of the Tower of Babel in the Bible): *a Babel of French, German and Italian voices* —see also TOWER OF BABEL

Babes in the Wood /, - . . ' . / an old story about a young brother and sister (the babes) who are left in a wood by their wicked uncle who wants their property. The children die and are covered with leaves by a bird. Soon after the uncle loses his own sons and his goods, and finally dies.

ba-boon /bə'bu:zn/ 'bæ-/ *n* a large monkey of Africa or S Asia

ba-bu, baboo /'bɑ:buz/ *n* *IndE* **1** *usu. derog* an Indian clerk **2** (used esp. formerly as a Hindu title, like Mr)

ba-by¹ /'beɪbi/ *n* **1** a very young child, esp. one who has not yet learnt to speak or walk: *a newborn baby* | *a baby girl* | *a three-month-old baby* | *My sister is expecting a baby.* (=is PREGNANT) —see CHILD (USAGE) **2** a very young animal or bird: *a baby monkey* **3** the youngest or smallest of a group: *My brother Peter is still at college; he's the baby of our family.* **4** *usu. derog* a person who

behaves like a baby: *Don't be such a baby! Take your medicine.* **5** *infml* something that is the special responsibility of a particular person: *Don't ask me about the building contract — that's Robert's baby.* **6** *AmE infml* a person, esp. a girl or woman **7** **throw the baby out with the 'bath water** to lose the most important part of something when getting rid of the bad or unwanted part

baby² *v* [T] *infml* to treat like a baby; give a great deal of care or attention to; MOLLYCODDLE: *babying his old car*

baby blues /' . . , / *n* [*the*+P] *infml* for POSTNATAL DEPRESSION: *an attack of the baby blues*

baby-boom /' . . / *n* a period when there is a large increase in the number of babies born, esp. the period after the SECOND WORLD WAR: *the baby-boom of the 1950s*

baby-boom-er /' . . , / *n* a person born during a baby-boom, esp. during the 1950s

baby bounc-er /' . . , / *n* a seat hanging from springs fixed to a frame in which a baby can stand with feet touching the floor and legs taking part of the body weight

baby car-riage /' . . , / also **baby buggy**— *n* *AmE* for PRAM

Ba-by-cham /'beɪbɪʃæm/ *n* [C;U] *BrE, tdmk* a sweet, SPARKLING, alcoholic drink which comes in a small bottle. It is usu. considered to be a woman's drink.

baby grand /, - ' . / *n* *infml* a small GRAND PIANO (a piano with its strings set parallel to the ground, not up and down): *They have a baby grand in their living room.*

Ba-by-gro /'beɪbɪgrəʊ/ also **babystretch** || **stretch coveralls** *AmE*— *n* *tdmk* a piece of clothing for a baby made of stretchy material which covers the body, arms, legs, and feet

ba-by-hood /'beɪbɪhʊd/ *n* [U] the period of time when one is a baby

ba-by-ish /'beɪbɪ-ɪʃ/ *adj derog* (esp. of someone who is not a baby) like a baby: *It's babyish to cry about having a tooth out at your age!*

Bab-y-lon /'bæbɪlən, -lən/ -lɑ:n/ an ancient city and capital of the **Babylonian Empire**, sometimes mentioned as an example of a city which valued pleasure and LUXURY above all else

baby milk /' . . / *n* [U] dried milk which is mixed with water and fed to babies instead of breast milk

baby-mind-er /' . . , / *n* *BrE* someone who looks after other people's babies, usu. when both parents are at work —compare BABY-SITTER

baby's breath /, - ' . / also **babies' breath**— *n* [U] a plant with many small white or pink flowers, often dried and used in groups of cut flowers (BOUQUETS) and at weddings

baby-sit /' . . / also **sit** *AmE*— *v* -**sat**, *present participle* -**tt**-[I (for)] to act as a baby-sitter

baby-sit-ter /' . . , / also **sitter**— *n* **1** a person who takes care of babies or children while their parents are out, esp. in the evening. A baby-sitter is usu. paid. —compare BABY-MINDER **2** *AmE* for CHILDMINDER

ba-by-stretch /'beɪbɪ,streɪʃ/ *n* a BABYGRO

baby talk /' . . / *n* [U] **1** the speechlike sounds made by babies when they are learning to talk **2** the way adults sometimes talk to babies, often repeating words or sounds or using words with no meaning

baby tooth /' . . / *n* *AmE* for MILK TOOTH

ba-by-walk-er /'beɪbɪwɔ:kəʳ/ *n* a WALKER (2)

Ba-call /bə'kɔ:l/, **Lau-ren** /'lɔ:rən/ (1924–) an American actress who made films with Humphrey Bogart, such as *The Big Sleep*, and married him in 1945

Ba-car-di /bə'kɑ:di/ -ɑ:r-/ *n* [C;U] *tdmk* a type of white RUM **bac-ca-lau-re-ate** /,bækə'lɔ:riət/ *n* *fml* for BACHELOR'S DEGREE

bac-ca-rat, -**ra** /'bækəɾɑ:z/ ,bækə'ɾɑ:z/ *n* [U] a card game usu. played for money

bac-cha-nal /,bækə'næl, 'bækənəl/ *n* *esp. lit* a noisy party with a lot of drinking and disorderly behaviour, perhaps including sex —see also BACCHUS — ~**ian** /,bækə'neɪliən/ *adj*

Bac-chus /'bækəs/ in CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY, the god of wine, fertility (FERTILE), and REVELRY, also known by his Greek name Dionysus. He is usu. connected with drunkenness and wild drunken behaviour, esp. involving sex —see also BACCHANAL

bac-cy /'bæki/ *n* [U] *sl* tobacco

bach /bætʃ/ *v* [I] *AmE infml* (of a man) to cook, keep house, etc. without the help or presence of a woman; to live as a BACHELOR (1): *He's baching while his wife is in the hospital.*

Bach /bɑːk; bɑːx/, **Jo-hann Se-bas-ti-an** /'jəʊhən sə'bəstɪən||l-ha:n-/ (1685–1750) a German musician and COMPOSER, one of the best known and most admired of all time, well-known for his ORGAN music

Bach, P.D.Q. see Peter SCHICKELE

Bach-a-rach /'bækəræk/, **Burt** /bɜːt||bɜːrt/ (1929–) an American songwriter whose music has been recorded by many different singers, and is esp. enjoyed by older people

bach-e-lor /'bætʃələ/ *n* 1 an unmarried man: *He's a confirmed bachelor.* (=He's unlikely to get married.) | *an eligible bachelor* (=who is regarded as very suitable to be chosen as a husband) | *a bachelor flat* –compare SPINSTER

► **CULTURAL NOTE** It is socially acceptable for a man to be unmarried in Western society, esp. if he is young and enjoying his life before getting married. If he is older, people may think he is HOMOSEXUAL. People do not feel sorry for unmarried men, but they do sometimes feel sorry for unmarried women.

◄ 2 (often *cap.*) a person, male or female, who has a bachelor's degree: *a Bachelor of Arts* | *a Bachelor of Science*

bachelor's de-gree /'...-ɪ-/ also **bachelor's** *n* a first university degree –see also BA, BSC

ba-cil-lus /bə'sɪləs/ *n* -cilli /'sɪlɪ/ *tech* any of several kinds of rod-shaped bacteria, some of which carry disease

back¹ /bæk/ *n* 1 the part of a person's or animal's body that is the side opposite the chest, and goes from the neck to the bottom of the SPINE or the tail: *She was carrying the baby on her back.* | *You'll make your back ache if you carry those heavy buckets.* | *He was (flat) on his back* (=ill in bed) *for three months.* 2 [(of) *usu. sing.*] the part furthest from the direction that something moves in or faces: *Sit at the back of the aircraft.* | *The back of the house looks out onto the river.* | *He wrote "Just Married" on the back of their car.* | *Three people can sit in the back of this car.* (=in the seats behind the driver) | *There's a garden at the back of (AmE) in back of the house.* (=behind it) | (fig.) *It was at the back of my mind that I had to phone you, but I completely forgot.* 3 [(of) *usu. sing.*] the less important side or surface of something: *She scribbled some notes on the back of an envelope.* | *The back of the knife won't cut.* –compare BACKSIDE 4 [(of)] the part of a chair that one leans against when sitting 5 [(of) *usu. sing.*] the end of a book or newspaper: *There is a lot of useful information at the back of the dictionary.* 6 (in games like football) one of the defending players in a team –compare FORWARD¹, CENTRE¹ (5) 7 **at one's back** supporting one: *Caesar marched into Rome with an army at his back.* 8 **back to back**: a with the backs facing each other: *Stand back to back and we'll see which of you is taller.* b esp. *AmE* happening one after the other: *two football games played back to back* 9 **back to front**: *BrE* a in such a way that the back and front are opposite in position: *You've got your sweater on back to front.* b thoroughly: *She knows the system back to front.* 10 **behind someone's back** unknown to the person concerned: *This decision was taken behind my back.* 11 **get off someone's back** *infml* to stop putting unwanted pressure on someone to do something: *I wish the boss would get off my back and let me do the job in my own way.* 12 **have/with one's back to the wall** *infml* (to be) in a position of great difficulty: *With the continuing fall in demand, the steel producers really have their backs to the wall.* 13 **know somewhere like the back of one's hand** *infml* to know somewhere very well: *She knows New York like the back of her hand.* 14 **put one's back into** to work very hard at: *If we really put our backs into the job we can finish it today.* 15 **put someone's back up** *infml* to annoy someone 16 **turn one's back on** to avoid or refuse to help, esp. unfairly or unkindly: *He's always been kind to me – I can't just turn my back on him now that he needs my help.* –see also BACK OF BEYOND, SHORT BACK AND SIDES, **break the back of** (BREAK¹ (22)), **see the back of** (SEE¹ (24)), **the straw that breaks the camel's back** (STRAW) and see picture at HORSE – ~ *less adj*: *a backless swimming costume*

back² *adv* 1 in or into the place or position where someone or something was before: *Put the book back on the shelf when you've finished it.* | *Back in Nigeria (where I come from) we used to play a lot of tennis.* | *She came back to get the box that she'd left behind.* | *I bought a paper on the way back from school.* | *I came out of the mosque and put my shoes back on.* | *She was away for three weeks but she's back at work now.* | (fig.) *Hats are back in fashion/are coming back into fashion.* 2 towards or at the back; away from the front: *Sit well back or you won't be able to fasten your seat belt.* | *The police kept the crowd back as the President's car passed.* 3 away from the speaker: *Stand back! This dog bites.* 4 towards or in an earlier time: *We met him three years back/back in 1980.* | *to put the clock back* (=so that it shows an earlier time) | *She's been working there as far back as I can remember.* | *Looking back on it, it was a mistake.* 5 in return; in reply: *Phone me back when you know the answer.* | *I'll pay her back for her rudeness!* 6 towards the beginning of a book: *There's a picture six pages further back.* 7 so as to be delayed or made slower: *His bad health has kept/held him back at school.*

back³ *adj* [A] 1 at the back: *the back yard/garden* | *the back wheel of a bicycle* –see also BACK DOOR, BACK BURNER 2 of or from the past: *back pay/back rent* (=money owed from an earlier time) | *a back number/back copy/back issue of a magazine* (=not the most recent one) 3 *tech* (of a vowel sound) made by raising the tongue at the back of the mouth –opposite front

back⁴ *v* 1 [I;T] to (cause to) go backwards: *She backed the car through the gate/into the parking space.* 2 [T] to support and encourage, often with money; provide BACKING for: *The bank refused to back the scheme.* | *The union leaders decided to back the Government in its action.* | *the American-backed rebel forces* (=who are supported by the Americans) 3 [T] to put money on the success of (a horse, dog, etc. in a race); BET on: *Jane backed the winner and won £5.* 4 [T (with)] to provide with a back or LINING: *curtains backed with a plastic material* 5 [I] *tech* (of the wind) to change direction, moving round the COMPASS in the order North–West–South–East –compare VEER (2) 6 **back the wrong horse** to support the loser

back away also **back off** *AmE* – *phr v* [I (from)] to move away or back because of fear or dislike: *The dog backed away as the man raised his stick.* | (fig.) *The government has backed away from radical reshaping of the tax system.*

back down *phr v* [I (over, on)] to accept defeat in an argument, opinion, or claim; admit that one was wrong: *I saw that she was right, so I had to back down.*

back off *phr v* [I] *AmE* to stop trying to make (someone) do or think (something): *I saw I was upsetting her so I backed off.* | *Just back off and leave me alone!*

back onto *sthg. phr v* [T] (of a place or building) to be near to or have at the back: *The house backs onto the river.*

back out *phr v* [I (from, of)] to fail to fulfil a promise, contract, etc.: *I hope I can depend on you not to back out at the last moment.*

back sbdy./sthg. up *phr v* 1 [T] to support, esp. in an argument: *The policeman wouldn't have believed me if you hadn't backed me up.* 2 [I;T] to make a copy of (a DISK): *Make sure you back up (the disk) before you turn the computer off.* –see also BACKUP

back-ache /'bækeɪk/ *n* [C;U] (a) pain in the back: *suffering from (a) backache* –see ACHE² (USAGE)

back-bench /,bæk'bentʃ/ *n* any of the seats in the British parliament on which members who do not hold an official position in the government or opposition may sit: *the Tory backbenches* | *backbench support/rebellion* –compare FRONTBENCH

back-bench-er /,bæk'bentʃə/ *n* a member of the British parliament who does not hold an official position in the government or opposition, and who sits on one of the back seats: *angry backbenchers* –compare FRONTBENCHER

back-bit-ing /'bækbɪtɪŋ/ *n* [U] unkind and unpleasant talk about someone who is absent: *I didn't enjoy working there – there was too much backbiting.* –*er n*

back-board /'bækbɔːd||-bɔːrd/ *n* (in BASKETBALL) the board behind the basket

back-bone /'bækbəʊn/ *n* 1 [C] the row of bones in the centre of a person's or animal's back; SPINE 2 [the (of)] the part of a group, organization, etc. that provides the main support: *The small farmers form the backbone of*

the country's economy. **3** [U] firmness of mind; strength of character: "No backbone," said the old general. "That's the trouble with young people today!"

back-break-ing /'bækbreɪkɪŋ/ *adj* (of work) very hard and heavy: a backbreaking job/load

back burn-er /,bæk'bu:n- / *n* *infml* on the back burner left to be dealt with later: We put the Thompson project on the back burner while we rushed to meet the deadline on the Italo contract.

back-chat /'bæktʃæt/ *BrE* || **back talk** *AmE*— *n* [U] rude talk in reply to someone: Just listen to me! I don't want any backchat!

back-cloth /'bæk-klɒθ||-klɔ:θ/ *n* *BrE* for BACKDROP

back-comb /'bæk-kəʊm/ *v* [T] to comb (hair) against the direction of growth, in order to make it look thicker

back coun-try /'bæk'kʌn-tri/ *n* [the] **1** *esp. AustrE* a country area where few people live **2** *AmE* an area, esp. in the mountains, away from roads and towns: hiking in the back country of Yosemite National Park

back-date /,bæk'deɪt||'bækdet/ *v* [T (to)] to make effective from an earlier date: The pay increase agreed in June will be backdated to January. —compare ANTEDATE, POSTDATE

back door /,bæk'dɔ:/ *n* **1** a door at the back or side of a building **2** get in through/by the back door to get a job, a place in a university, etc. through having some unfair advantage

back-drop /'bækdɒp||-drɔ:p/ also **backcloth** *BrE*— *n* **1** a painted cloth hung across the back of a stage **2** the conditions in which something happens; BACKGROUND: The stormy political events of the 1930s provided the backdrop for the film.

back-er /'bækə/ *n* **1** someone who supports a plan, esp. with money: We'll stage the play as soon as we've found a backer. **2** someone who BACKS⁴ (3) a horse

back-fire /,bæk'faɪə/||'bækfaɪə/ *v* [I] **1** (of a motor vehicle) to make a loud noise because the explosion in the engine comes too soon **2** [(on)] to have an unexpected effect opposite to the effect intended: His plan backfired (on him), and he lost all his money.

back for-ma-tion /'bæk'fɔ:m- / *n* *tech* a word formed from another word that seems to be formed from it, esp. by removing a SUFFIX: The verb "televisé" is a back formation from "television".

back-gam-mon /'bækgæmən/ *n* [U] an indoor game for two players, using round wooden pieces and DICE on a special board

back-ground /'bækgraʊnd/ *n* **1** [C] the scenery or space behind the main objects or people in a view, a picture, or a photograph: The mountains form a background to this photograph of the family. | (fig.) She has a lot of power, but likes to remain in the background. (=as unnoticeable as possible) —compare FOREGROUND **2** [C;U] the conditions that exist when something happens, and that help to explain it: The riots took place against a background of widespread unemployment. | You'll have to give me a bit more background (information) before I can help you. **3** [C] a person's family, social class, experience, and education: She has a background in child psychology. | children from disadvantaged backgrounds

back-hand /'bækhænd/ *n* (in games such as tennis) (the ability to make) a stroke with the back of the hand turned in the direction of movement: He's got an excellent backhand. —compare FOREHAND —**backhand** *adj, adv*: He returned it backhand.

back-hand-ed /,bæk'hændɪd||'bækhændɪd/ *adj* **1** using or made with a backhand **2** (of a remark) indirect, esp. SARCASTIC: a backhanded compliment —**backhanded** *adv*

back-hand-er /'bækhændə/ *n* **1** a backhanded blow or stroke **2** *BrE infml* a BRIBE

back-ing /'bækiŋ/ *n* **1** [U] help or support, esp. with money: He's won the backing of the Congress for his scheme. **2** [C;U] something that is used to make the back of an object: (a) backing of cardboard **3** [C] the musical ACCOMPANIMENT that supports a singer or musician

back-lash /'bæklæʃ/ *n* **1** [(against)] a strong but usu. delayed feeling of opposition among many people towards a belief or practice, esp. towards a political or social development: The continual rise in violent crime eventually provoked a backlash against the liberal gun-control laws. **2** a sudden violent backward movement

back-log /'bæklɒg||-lɔ:g, -lɑ:g/ *n* [usu. sing.] a number of jobs that have to be done that were not done at the proper time: a backlog of work after the holidays

back num-ber /,bæk'num-bə/ *n* a newspaper, magazine, etc. that is out of date, but may still be interesting or valuable — see also BACK³ (2)

back of be-yond /,bæk'ɒf'bi:nd/ *n* [the] *infml, esp. BrE* a very distant place which is difficult to get to: They live on a farm somewhere at/in the back of beyond.

back-pack¹ /'bækpæk/ *n* *esp. AmE* a RUCKSACK carried on one's back, often supported by a light metal frame, used by climbers and walkers or for carrying a baby or small child — ~er *n*

backpack² *v* [I] *AmE* to walk and camp overnight carrying a backpack: They went backpacking along the Appalachian Trail.

back pas-sage /,bæk'pas- / *n* *euph* for RECTUM

back-ped-al /,bæk'pedl||'bæk,pedl/ *v* -ll- *BrE* || -l- *AmE* [I] **1** to PEDAL backwards on a bicycle **2** *infml* to change an earlier principle or draw back from some promised action: They promised to cut taxes, but they're beginning to backpedal now.

back-room boy /'bækrʊm'boɪ, -ru:m-/ *n* [often pl.] *infml, esp. BrE* a person whose work is important but who does not receive recognition from the public, often because they are working to support someone else: Engineers are often seen as the backroom boys of British industry.

back seat /,bæk'si:t/ *n* **1** [C] a seat at the back of a car, behind where the driver sits **2** [S] a less important position: After five years as a director, she's decided to take a back seat.

back-seat dri-ver /,bæk'si:t'draɪvə/ *n* a passenger in a motor vehicle who gives unwanted advice to the driver about how to drive: (fig.) Mrs Thatcher promised that she wouldn't be a back-seat driver in the House of Commons.

back-side /'bæksaɪd/ *n* *infml* the part of the body on which one sits —compare BACK¹ (3)

back-slap-ping /'bækslæpɪŋ/ *n* [U] (too much) noisy cheerfulness, showing admiration for one's own success: The cast indulged in a great deal of backslapping when the show became an overnight success. —per *n*

back-slide /,bæk'slaɪd||'bækslaɪd/ *v* [I] to become less good, work less hard, etc., and esp. to go back to a worse condition after some improvement: I managed to keep off cigarettes for two months, but recently I'm afraid I've begun to backslide. —slider *n*

back-space /'bækspeɪs/ *n* [usu. sing.] the part that one presses to make the movable part of a TYPEWRITER move back one or more spaces towards the beginning of the line

back-spin /bækspɪn/ *n* [U] turning movement given to a ball in such a way that it turns in the opposite direction to that which it goes forward

back-stage /,bæk'steɪdʒ/ *adv* **1** behind the stage in a theatre, esp. in(to) the dressing rooms of the actors: After the performance we were invited backstage. **2** in private; not seen publicly; secretly: That's what they say, but who knows what really goes on backstage? —**backstage** /'bæksteɪdʒ/ *adj* [A] : backstage workers

back-stairs /'bæksteəz||-steərz/ *adj* [A] secret and perhaps unfair: backstairs influence

back street /'bæk'stri:t/ *n* [usu. pl.] a street away from the main streets, esp. in a poor area of a town —compare SIDE STREET

back-street a-bor-tion /,bæk'stri:t'ə:bɔ:ʃən/ also **back-al-ley abortion** *AmE* /,bæk'æl- / *n* an ABORTION performed illegally, usu. in poor, dirty conditions. People who are in favour of legal abortions often argue that if abortions are made illegal again, as they were in the past, there will be a return to back-street abortions.

back-stroke /'bækstrəʊk/ *n* [(the) S] a way of swimming on one's back by moving first one arm and then the other backwards while kicking the feet

back-swing /'bækswɪŋ/ *n* the movement of a CLUB, BAT, etc. backwards to a position from which the forward or downward swing is made

back talk /'bæk'tɔ:k/ *n* [U] *esp. AmE* for BACKCHAT

back-to-back /,bæk'tu:bæk/ *n* *BrE* a house in a row (=TERRACE) built with its back against the back of a house in a

parallel row. This kind of house was once typical of industrial towns in the north of England.

back-track /'bæktræk/ *v* [I] **1** to go back over the same path **2** to draw back from a former position, promise, etc.; **BACKPEDAL** (2): *The government is already backtracking from its more expensive plans.*

back-up /'bækʌp/ *n* [C;U] a thing or person ready to be used in place of or to help another: *We won't be able to do it unless we have a lot of technical backup.* | *We have a backup computer in case the main one breaks down.* —see also **BACK⁴ up**

back-ward /'bækwəd/ *adj* **1** [A] directed towards the back, the beginning, or the past: *a backward glance* **2** late in development: *a backward child* | *Some backward parts of the country have no electricity.* —compare **FORWARD²** — **~ly adv** — **~ness n** [U]

back-ward-a-tion /'bækwə'deɪʃən/ *n* [U] *BrE, tech* the money paid by someone selling **STOCK** for the right to delay delivery until the following account —compare **CONTANGO**

back-wards /'bækwədz/ *adv* also **backward** *AmE* — **adv** **1** towards the back, the beginning, or the past: *I walked backwards down the stairs, carrying the heavy box.* | *Can you say the alphabet backwards?* (=from Z to A) **2** with the back part in front: *to walk backwards* | *You've put your hat on backwards.* **3** towards a worse state: *The new measures are seen by some as a major step backwards.* **4 backwards and forwards** first in one direction and then in the opposite direction **5 bend/lean over backwards** to try as hard as possible to help or please someone: *We bent over backwards to help them.* **6 know something backwards** *BrE* || **know something backwards and forwards** *AmE* to know something perfectly: *All the actors know the play backwards.* —compare **FORWARD¹**

back-wa-ter /'bækwɔ:tə/ *n* **1** a part of a river out of the main stream, where the water does not move **2** often derog a place not influenced by outside events or new ideas: *There aren't any good shops in this village, it's a real backwater.* | *a cultural backwater*

back-woods /'bækwʊdz/ *n* [*the+sing./pl. v*] **1** (esp. in N America) uncleared land far away from towns **2** a distant or backward area

back-woods-man /'bækwʊdzmən/ *n* **-men** /mən/ **1** someone who lives in the backwoods **2** *BrE infml* a member of the House of Lords who lives in the country and hardly ever attends its meetings

back-yard /'bækjaɪd/ *n* **1** *BrE* a yard behind a house, covered with a hard surface **2** *AmE* an area of land behind a house, usu. covered with grass; a back garden: *The children are playing in the backyard.* —see **GARDEN** **3 not in my backyard** not in or near the place where I live. This phrase is used when discussing new industrial buildings, prisons, or processes which are thought to be harmful to the environment: *When it comes to setting up disposal sites for nuclear waste, the reaction of most people is "not in my backyard!"* —see also **NIMBY**

ba-con /'beɪkən/ *n* [U] **1** salted or smoked meat from the back or sides of a pig, often served in narrow thin pieces. Bacon and eggs, cooked together in fat, is thought of as being the typical English breakfast. —compare **GAMMON**, **HAM** (1); see **MEAT** (USAGE) **2 bring home the bacon** *infml* to succeed, esp. in providing food for one's family —see also **save one's bacon** (**SAVE¹**)

Bacon, Francis (1909–92) an Irish artist known for his richly coloured paintings with twisted human and animal shapes

Bacon, Sir Francis (1561–1626) an English politician, **PHILOSOPHER**, and writer. He is known esp. because of the suggestion that he may have written some or all of Shakespeare's plays.

bac-te-ri-a /'bæktəriə/ *n* *sing.* **-rium** /riəm/ [P] very small living things related to plants, some of which cause disease; **MICROBES** —compare **VIRUS** —**-rial adj**: *a bacterial infection*

bac-te-ri-ol-o-gy /'bæktəri'ɒlədʒi/ *n* [U] the scientific study of bacteria —**-gist n**

Bac-tri-an /'bæktəriən/ *adj* see **CAMEL** (1b)

bad¹ /bæd/ *adj* **worse** /wɜ:s/ || **worst** /wɜ:st/ || **w3rst/** **1** not good; unpleasant, unwanted, or unacceptable: *a very bad performance* (=not of acceptable quality) | *The rain*

has had a very bad (=unfavourable) *effect on the crops.* | *You're a bad* (=disobedient) *boy!* | *bad* (=unpleasant) *news* | *The company's failure was due to bad* (=ineffective) *management.* | *Play in the cricket match was stopped because of bad light.* (=because it was too dark) | *bad* (=incorrect) *grammar* | *I'm rather bad at sums.* (=can't do them very well) | *He's in a bad temper.* (=angry) | *I felt bad* (=ashamed or sorry) *about not being able to come last night.* | *It was bad of him* (=dishonourable) *to change his mind once he had given his promise.* | *He made a very bad job of repairing it.* | *The situation is nothing like as bad/nowhere near as bad* (=much less bad) *as the newspapers say it is.* **2** unhealthy or unwell: *She's got a bad heart.* | *My leg's bad again.* (=is hurting) | (*infml*) *He was taken bad* (=became ill) *in the middle of the night.* **3** [(for)] having a harmful effect on one's health; damaging: *bad eating habits* | *Smoking is bad for you/bad for your health.* **4** serious; severe: *a bad cold* | *a bad defeat* | *a bad case of measles* **5** unfit to eat because of decay; **ROTTEN**: *bad apples* | *This fish has gone bad.* **6** not suitable; **INOPPORTUNE**: *The rise in interest rates happened at the worst possible time for the company.* [+to-v] *It was a bad moment to call because they were in the middle of an argument.* **7** *AmE sl* good **8 (act) in bad faith** (to act) dishonestly; without intending to carry out a promise **9 bad lot/egg/hat/type old-fash** a person of dishonourable character **10 go from bad to worse** to get much worse even than before **11 have/get a bad name** to lose or have lost people's respect; have/get a bad **REPUTATION**: *Those cars have begun to get a bad name for rust.* **12 in a bad way** very ill or in serious trouble **13 (It's/That's) too bad infml a** It is unfortunate (that); I'm sorry: *Too bad you couldn't come last night.* **b** *BrE* It is very annoying or unreasonable: *They can't just double the price like that — it's too bad!* **14 not bad infml** (often used when a stronger expression of pleasure or approval is really meant) really rather good: *"How are you feeling?" "Not (so) bad."* | *This cake isn't bad.* | *That's not a bad idea!* —see also **BADLY**, **make the best of a bad job** (**JOB**) — **~ness n** [U]

bad² n **1 go to the bad** to begin living in a wrong or evil way: *He's gone to the bad since he won all that money.* **2 take the bad with the good** to accept not only the good things but also the bad things in life **3 to the bad** in debt by (an amount): *I've spent so much that I'm £100 to the bad this month.*

bad blood /'bæd blʊd/ also **bad feel-ing** /'bæd fi:liŋ/ *n* [U (**between**)] angry or bitter feeling; **HOSTILITY**: *I don't think they'll ever work together again — there's too much bad blood between them.*

bad debt /'bæd det/ *n* a debt that is unlikely to be paid

bad-die, bad-dy /'bædi/ *BrE* || **bad guy** *AmE* — *n* someone who is bad or an opponent of good people, esp. in books, films, etc.: *He's a real baddie.* | *Look out, the baddies are coming!*

bade /bæd, beɪd/ *past tense & participle* of **BID³**

Ba-den-Po-well /'beɪn 'pəʊəl/, **Lord Rob-ert** /'rɒbət/ 'rɑ: bɔ:t/ (1857–1941) a British **GENERAL** who became famous in the Boer War and later started the **SCOUTS** association

Ba-der /'bɑ:də/ *n*, **Douglas** (1910–82) a British airforce pilot who became famous flying fighter planes in the Battle of Britain, in spite of having lost both his legs in an accident in 1931

bad form /'bæd fɔ:m/ *n* [U] *old-fash BrE* socially unacceptable behaviour: *It's bad form to argue with the umpire.*

badge /bædʒ/ *n* **1** *BrE* || **button, pin, patch** *AmE* anything, esp. a small piece of metal or plastic with a picture or words on it, worn to show rank, membership of a group, support for a political idea or belief, etc.: *They were wearing badges that said "Nuclear Power — No thanks!"* | *a school blazer with a badge sewn on it* | *Mayors wear chains round their necks as badges of office.* —compare **BROOCH**; see also **BUTTON¹** (3) **2** *AmE* a small piece of metal with words or pictures on it which shows authority: *a sheriff's badge* | *He had to show me his badge before I would believe he was from the F.B.I.* **3** a small piece of cloth with a picture on it given to **SCOUTS**, **GUIDES**, etc. when they have done certain things to earn it: *I got my photography and music badges today.*

bad-ger¹ /'bædʒə/ *n* **1** [C] an animal which has black and

white fur, lives in holes in the ground, and is active at night **2** [U] the skin or hair of this animal

badger² *v* [T (into)] to (try to) persuade by asking again and again; **PESTER**: *The children badgered me into taking them to the cinema.* [+obj+to-v] *They kept badgering him to get a home computer.*

bad guy /'bɑː ɡuː/ *n* AmE infml BADDIE

bad-i-nage /'bædɪnɑːʒ||bædən 'ɑːʒ/ *n* [U] fml or humor playful joking talk; **BANTER**: *Enough of this badinage: let's talk seriously.*

bad-lands /'bædlændz/ *n* [P] (in N America) an area of unproductive land with strangely-shaped rocks and hills that have been worn away by the weather

Badlands also **Badlands Na-tion-al Park** /'bædlændz/ [the] an area of badlands in S Dakota

bad lan-guage /'bæd lɑːŋɡeɪʒ/ *n* [U] language which includes swear words and is likely to offend people: *You won't like that film, it's got a lot of bad language in it.* | *Stop using bad language in front of the children.*

bad-ly /'bædli/ *adv* **worse** /wɜːs||wɜːrs/, **worst** /wɜːst||wɜːrst/ **1** in a bad manner: *badly made clothes* | *to play badly* | *badly wounded* | *The company had been badly managed.* | *He felt very badly (=was very sorry) about not being able to give more help.* —opposite **well** **2** to a great or serious degree: *My horse was badly beaten in the race.* | *badly wounded* | *It badly needs repainting.* | *He's badly in need of a haircut.* | *The north of the country is the most badly-affected area/the worst-affected area.*

badly-off /'bædli ɒf/ also **bad-off** AmE— *adj* **worse-off**, **worst-off** [F] **1** not having much money; poor: *They're too badly off to have a holiday.* **2** [(for)] not having enough (of something needed); lacking: *The school is rather badly-off for equipment.* —opposite **well-off**

bad-min-ton /'bædmɪntən/ *n* [U] a game like tennis played by two or four people who hit a small feathered object (SHUTTLECOCK) over a high net with a RACKET

Badminton Horse Tri-als /'bædmɪntən haʊs traɪəlz/ [the] an important British horseriding competition held every year at Badminton House

bad-mouth /'bæd maʊθ/ *v* [T] *sl*, esp. AmE to speak badly of; criticize: *He was bad-mouthing the way the company was run and the boss overheard him.*

bad-off /'bæd ɒf/ *adj* AmE for BADLY-OFF

bad pen-ny /'bæd peni/ *n* infml **1** a person or thing that is not liked or wanted but is difficult to avoid **2** **turn up like a bad penny** (of a person or thing not liked or wanted) to appear continually: *My ex-boyfriend turns up like a bad penny every time I go out.*

bad-tem-pered /'bæd təmpəd/ *adj* having a bad or angry state of mind: *He's a bit bad-tempered now, he's just woken up.* —see also **ANGRY** (USAGE)

BAe /biː eɪ 'iː/ *abbrev* for BRITISH AEROSPACE

Bae-dek-er /'beɪdɪkər/ *n* a travel guide, in a SERIES begun by Karl Baedeker in Germany, used by travellers abroad: *Look it up in Baedeker.* | *Have you got the Baedeker for France?*

Ba-ez /'baɪez/, **Joan** (1941–) an American FOLK singer popular esp. in the 1960s when she opposed the Vietnam War and supported the CIVIL RIGHTS movement in the US. She is known esp. for the song *We Shall Overcome* which is still sung on protest marches and at political meetings.

baf-ble /'bæfəl/ *v* [T] to cause to have difficulty in understanding and confuse so much that effective action is impossible; **BEWILDER**: *The question baffled me completely.* | *The police admitted that they were completely baffled (by the lack of evidence).* — **ment** *n* [U] —**fling** *adj*

baffle² *n* *tech* a board, sheet of metal, etc., that controls the flow of air, water, or sound into or out of an enclosed space

Baf-ta /'bæftə/ *n* a prize given for films and television programmes in Britain: *It won two Baftas.* | *the Bafta award ceremony*

bag¹ /bæg/ *n* **1** a a container made of soft material which

badger



usu. opens at the top: *a shopping bag* | *a golf bag* | *a paper/polythene bag* **b** a small bag used esp. by a woman for her personal things; **HANDBAG**: *Don't leave your bag in the office when you go to lunch.* **c** a bag used by someone travelling; piece of **LUGGAGE**: *to pack one's bags* **2** [(of)] also **bag-ful** /-fʊl/ (*pl.* **bagfuls**, **bagsful**)— the amount a bag will hold: *a bag of sweets* | *two bags of rice* **3** *derog* an unpleasant or unattractive woman; **BAGGAGE** (4): *You silly old bag!* **4** [*usu. sing.*] the number of birds or animals shot or caught on any one occasion: *We had a good bag that day.* **5** **bag and baggage** with all one's belongings: *They threw her out of the house bag and baggage.* **6** **bag of bones** a very thin person or animal **7** **in the bag** infml certain to be won, gained, etc.: *We're sure to win. The match is in the bag.* **8** **one's bag** infml something one particularly likes, is good at, or has special knowledge about: *I'm afraid I can't tell you anything about it — computers aren't really my bag.* **9** **pull something out of the bag** to succeed by making an effort at a late stage: *He was exhausted but still managed to pull something out of the bag to win the race.* —see also **BAGS**, **MIXED BAG**, **SLEEPING BAG**, **let the cat out of the bag** (CAT), **be left holding the bag** (HOLD¹)

bag² *v* -**gg-** **1** [T] to put (material or objects in large quantities) into a bag or bags **2** [T] to kill or catch (animals or birds): *We bagged a rabbit.* **3** [T] infml to take possession of: *Try to bag a couple of seats at the back for us.* **4** [I (OUT)] infml to hang loosely, like a bag: *His trousers bagged (out) at the knees.*

bag-a-telle /'bæɡə'tel/ *n* **1** [U] a game played on a board with holes in which balls must be put **2** [S] something considered to be small and unimportant; **TRIFLE**: *It cost about £25, a mere bagatelle for someone as rich as her.*

bag-el /'beɪɡəl/ *n* a ring-shaped bread ROLL, typical of Jewish cooking

bag-gage /'bæɡɪdʒ/ *n* **1** [U] esp. AmE the cases, bags, boxes, etc. of a traveller; **LUGGAGE**: *to see one's baggage through customs at the airport* | *a baggage check* **2** [U] the tents, beds, and other equipment of an army **3** [C] *old-fash humor* a good-for-nothing young woman; **MINX** **4** [C] infml an unpleasant or annoying old woman — see also **bag and baggage** (BAG¹ (5))

baggage car /'bæɡɪdʒ ˌkɑː/ *n* AmE for LUGGAGE VAN

baggage room /'bæɡɪdʒ ruːm/ *n* AmE for LEFT LUGGAGE OFFICE

Bag-gie /'bægi/ *n* AmE *tdmk* a small plastic bag used esp. to keep food in

Bag-gins /'bæɡɪnz/, **Bil-bo** /'bɪlbəʊ/ an imaginary creature (HOBBIT) who is the main character in the story *The Hobbit* by JRR Tolkien

bag-gy /'bægi/ *adj* infml hanging in loose folds; not tight: *His trousers were baggy at the knees.*

Bagh-dad /'bæɡ'dæd||'bægdæd/ the capital city of Iraq

bag la-dy /'bæɡ lɑːdi/ *n* a homeless woman who walks around carrying all her possessions with her; female **TRAMP**

bag-pipes /'bæɡpaɪps/ also **pipes** infml— *n* [(the) P] a musical instrument played esp. in Scotland in which air stored in a bag is forced out through pipes to produce the sound: *to play the bagpipes* —see colour map on page 818 —**bagpipe** *adj* [A] : *bagpipe music*

bags¹ /bægz/ *n* [P+of] infml, esp. BrE lots; plenty: *She's got bags of money!* | *We've got bags of time.*

bags² *n* [P] BrE *old-fash* trousers, esp. loose-fitting trousers

bags³ *interj* BrE *sl* **Bags I!** (used by children) **a** Let me have it, not you: *Bags I the biggest one!* **b** I'll do it, not you: *Bags I sleep in the bathroom!*

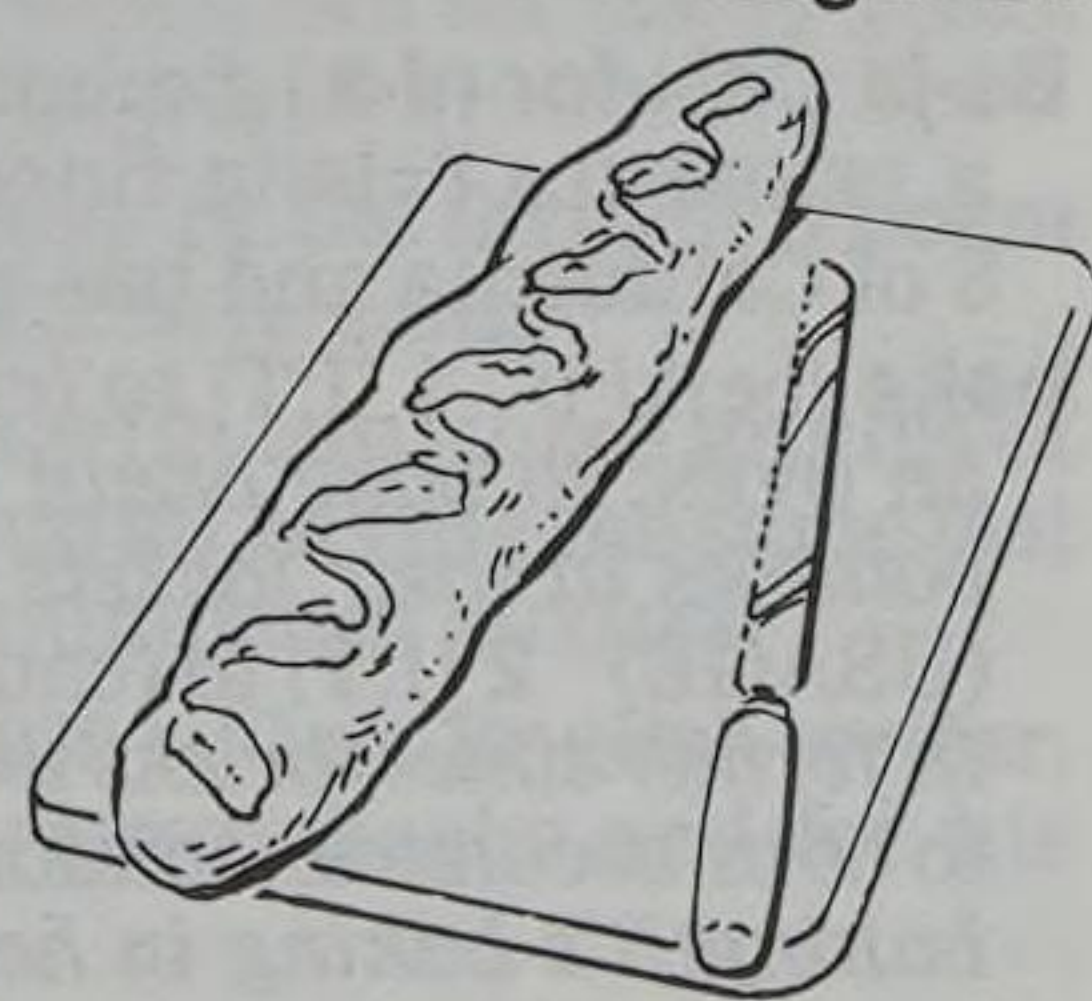
ba-guette /bæ'get/ *n* a long, thin French loaf

bah /bɑː/ *interj* (used to show disapproval or a low opinion of someone or something)

Ba-ha'i Faith /bə'hɑɪ 'feɪθ/ *n* [U] (members of) a religion which believes that all people should act peacefully as brothers and ignore differences of race and religion

Ba-ha-mas /bə'hɑːməz/ [the+P] a country consisting of a group of islands in the Atlantic, SE of Florida. It is a popular centre for tourism — **Bahamian** /bə'heɪmiən/ *n*, *adj*

baguette



- Bah-rain, Bahrein** /bɑː'reɪn/ a country and group of islands in the Gulf off the coast of Arabia; capital Manama; population 489,000 (1989). Bahrain produces oil and is an important financial centre — **raini** *n, adj*
- bail**¹ /beɪl/ *n* [U] 1 money left with a court of law so that a prisoner can be set free until he/she is tried. If the prisoner returns to be tried, the money is returned: *She was released on bail of £5000.* | *The judge refused to grant him bail.* (=to allow him to be set free in this way) 2 **stand/put up/go bail for someone** to pay money so that someone can be set free in this way 3 **jump bail** to not come back for trial after bail has been paid
- bail**² *v*
bail out *phr v* 1 [T] (**bail** sbdy. ↔ **out**) to obtain freedom for (someone) by paying bail to make sure they appear in court at a future date: *Clark was charged with robbing the bank, so his family paid £500 to bail him out.* 2 [I;T] (=bail sthg. ↔ **out**) also **bale out** *BrE* — to remove water from (a boat): *When the storm rose on the lake, we had to bail out to reach the shore safely.* 3 [T] (**bail** sbdy./sthg. ↔ **out**) to help (esp. a business) out of difficulties by providing money: *The government can't expect the taxpayer to bail this company out indefinitely.* — see also BAIL-OUT 4 [I] a *AmE* for **BALE out** (1) b *AmE* *sl* to leave quickly, esp. because of danger or fear: *When we heard that weird moan, we bailed out of there as fast as we could.*
- bail**³ *n* (in cricket) either of two small pieces of wood laid on top of the STUMPS — see picture at CRICKET
- bai-ley** /'beɪli/ *n* an open area (COURTYARD) inside the outer wall of a castle
- Bai-ley's** /'beɪlɪz/ *n* [U] *tdmk* a strong, sweet alcoholic drink made of Irish WHISKEY mixed with cream, usu. drunk from a small glass after a meal
- bail hos-tel** /'beɪl ˌhɒstəl/ *n* a place in Britain with unpaid managers, which provides temporary housing and support for people on PROBATION or BAIL — compare PROBATION HOSTEL
- bai-liff** /'beɪlɪf/ *n* 1 (in British law) an official who takes possession of a person's goods or property when they owe money, esp. for their rent 2 (in US law) an official who watches prisoners and keeps order in a court of law 3 *BrE* a person who looks after a farm or land for the owner
- bail-out** /'beɪl ˌaʊt/ *n* help given, esp. financially, to a company which is in difficulty: *The director was hoping for a bail-out to save the company.*
- Bain-bridge** /'beɪnbɪdʒ/, **Beryl** (1934–) an English writer, best known for her NOVELS *The Dressmaker* and *The Bottle Factory Outing*
- Baird** /beəd//beərd/, **John Lo-gie** /dʒɒn 'ləʊgi//dʒɑːn-/ (1888–1946) a Scottish engineer who invented a television system
- bairn** /beən//beərn/ *n* *ScotE & N EngE* a child
- bait**¹ /beɪt/ *n* [S;U] food or something like food used to attract fish, animals, or birds which are then caught: *fish-ing bait* | (fig.) *The shop used free gifts as a bait to attract new customers.* | (fig.) *She made some nasty remarks about his lack of experience, but he didn't rise to the bait.* (=he refused to get angry)
- bait**² *v* [T] 1 [(with)] to put bait on (a hook) to catch fish, or in (a trap) to catch animals: *to bait a mousetrap with cheese* 2 to try intentionally to make (someone) angry; TORMENT: *At school they baited him mercilessly because of his strange clothes.*
- baize** /beɪz/ *n* [U] thick woollen cloth, usu. green, used esp. to cover tables on which certain games (e.g. BILLIARDS) are played
- Ba-ja Cal-i-for-ni-a** /ˌbɑːhɑː kælɪŋ 'fɔːniə//-'fɔːrnjə/ also **Baja** a PENINSULA (=long finger of land) in Mexico that lies S of California and has several holiday towns
- bake** /beɪk/ *v* 1 [I;T] to (cause to) cook using dry heat in an OVEN: *to bake bread* | *The bread is baking.* | *baked potatoes in their jackets* (=with the skin on) — see COOK (USAGE) 2 [I;T] to (cause to) become hard by heating: *In former times, bricks were baked in the sun.* 3 [I] *infml* to be or become uncomfortably hot: *Open a window — I'm baking!* *It's baking in here!* — see also HALF-BAKED
- baked A-las-ka** /ˌbæɪk əˈlɑːskə/ *n* [C;U] a sweet dish consisting of ice cream covered with MERINGUE, which is baked at a high temperature for a short time

- baked beans** /ˌbæɪk ˈbiːnz/ *n* [P] 1 in Britain, baked HARICOT BEANS (=a kind of white bean) in a TOMATO SAUCE, sold in tins. Baked beans are a favourite food of many children in Britain. 2 also **Boston baked beans** *AmE* in the US, beans cooked with PORK and brown sugar
- Ba-ke-lite** /'beɪkəlaɪt/ *n* [U] *tdmk* any of a number of related RESINS (2), best known for being used to make the older type of telephones and radio sets
- bak-er** /'beɪkə/ *n* a person who bakes bread and cakes, esp. in order to sell them in a shop (**baker's**): *I bought these buns at the baker's (shop).*
- Baker, James** (1930–) an American Republican politician who was made Secretary of State under President Bush in 1989
- Baker, Dame Jan-et** /'dʒænəɪt/ (1933–) an English OPERA singer
- Baker, Ken-neth** /'kenəθ/ (1934–) a British Conservative politician
- Baker, Richard** (1925–) a British broadcaster and writer whose main interest is classical music, but who was formerly a television news reader
- Baker day** /'beɪk ˌdeɪ/ *n* *infml* (in Britain) one of a number of days during the usual school year when teachers receive training and children do not attend school
- baker's doz-en** /ˌbeɪk ˌsɪz ˌn/ *n* [S] *old-fash* 13
- Baker Street** /'beɪk ˌstriːt/ a street in London where the DETECTIVE Sherlock Holmes lived in the stories about him by Arthur Conan Doyle — see colour map on page 817
- bak-er-y** /'beɪkəri/ *n* a place where bread and sometimes cakes are baked and/or sold
- Bake-well tart** /ˌbeɪkwel 'tɑːt//-'tɑːrt/ *n* [C;U] a pastry TART filled with JAM and covered with a PASTE containing ALMONDS
- bak-ing pow-der** /'beɪk ˌpaʊ ˌder/ *n* [U] a powder used in baking cakes, etc. to make them light
- baking sheet** /'beɪk ˌʃiːt/ *n* *AmE* a flat metal pan used for baking BISCUITS
- baking so-da** /'beɪk ˌsəʊ ˌdɑː/ *n* [U] BICARBONATE
- Bak-ke Case** /'bɑːki keɪs/ [*the*] a legal case taken to the US Supreme Court which decided that a university could not refuse a student only because the university wanted to give a place to another student of a different RACE³. — see also AFFIRMATIVE ACTION, REVERSE DISCRIMINATION
- Bak-ker** /'beɪkə/ *n*, **James (Jim)** /dʒɪm/ an American religious leader who ran a popular religious television show but admitted having sex with a PROSTITUTE and in 1989 was found guilty of misusing money given by the people who watched his programme
- ba-kla-va** /'bɑːkləvə/ *n* [U] a sweet food from the Middle East made from FILO PASTRY, nuts, and HONEY or SYRUP. Baklava is usu. TRIANGLE-shaped
- Bal-a** /'bælə/ a small town in NW Wales, at the NE end of **Bala Lake** (Llyn Tegid), the largest natural lake in Wales
- bal-a-cla-va** /ˌbæləˈklɑːvə/ *n* a warm woollen head covering that leaves the face free but covers the head, ears, and neck
- bal-a-lai-ka** /ˌbæləˈlaɪkə/ *n* a stringed musical instrument with a three-sided body, played esp. in Russia
- bal-ance**¹ /'bæləns/ *n* 1 [S;U] a state in which all weights and forces are evenly spread, so as to produce a condition of steadiness; EQUILIBRIUM: *I found it hard to keep my balance on the icy path.* | *He lost his balance and fell off his bicycle.* 2 [S;U] a state in which opposite or competing influences are evenly matched or are given equal importance: *We try to strike a balance between justice and mercy.* | *a new weapon that may upset the nuclear balance between the two superpowers* | *good reporting that covers the news with fairness and balance* — opposite **im-balance** 3 [U] steadiness of the mind or feelings: *She temporarily lost her balance during the long months of solitude.* 4 [C (to)] a force or influence on one side which equals a force or influence on the other; COUNTERBALANCE: *They work well together — her steadiness acts as a balance to his clever but often impractical ideas.* 5 [*the*] the weight, force, or amount that is more on one side than another: *The balance of evidence lies against her.* 6 [C] an instrument for weighing things by seeing whether the amounts in two hanging pans are equal — see picture at LABORATORY 7 [C] an amount that remains

or is left over: *My bank balance isn't very large.* (=I haven't got much money in the bank.) | *I'd like to take the balance of my holidays* (=the part I have not yet taken) *in September.* **8 in the balance** in a state of uncertainty: *The future of the nation is/hangs in the balance.* **9 on balance** when everything has been considered: *I think on balance I prefer the old system.*

balance² *v* **1** [I;T] to (cause to) be steady and keep in BALANCE¹ (1), esp. in a difficult position: *The dog balanced a ball on its nose.* | *When you learn to ride a bicycle you must learn to balance.* **2** [I;T (OUT)] to (cause to) have or be given equal weight, amount, importance, or influence to (something else/each other): *The weight here balances the weight there.* | *The company's accounts did not balance (out).* (=did not show money spent to be equal to money received) | *the problem of balancing the need for military secrecy with the public's right to be informed* **3** [T (against)] to consider in relation to something else; compare: *You have to balance the advantages of living in a big city against the disadvantages.*

balance beam /'bæləns/ *n* a long narrow piece of wood in the air on which a GYMNAST performs

balanced /'bælənst/ *adj* **1** giving equal attention to all sides or all opinions; fair; showing BALANCE¹ (2): *balanced and impartial reporting of the election campaign* | *a balanced judgment* **2** in which money spent and money earned are equal: *a balanced budget* **3** having or showing a firm sensible mind: *She's very well balanced.* | *a balanced judgment* —compare UNBALANCE

balanced diet /'bælənst/ *n* the right quantities and kinds of food needed for good health

balance of payments /'bæləns/ *n* [S] the difference between the amount of money coming into a country and the amount going out, taking into account all international business such as trade in goods, services, insurance, and banking —compare BALANCE OF TRADE

balance of power /'bæləns/ *n* [the] **1** a position in which political or military power is evenly balanced on all sides: *The growth of the new political party upset the balance of power.* | *the nuclear balance of power* **2 hold the balance of power** to be able to make either side more powerful than the other by favouring it: *The two big parties had an almost equal number of seats in Parliament, so a small party held the balance of power.*

balance of trade /'bæləns/ *n* [S] the difference in value between a country's IMPORTS (=the goods it brings into the country) and EXPORTS (=the goods it sends out of the country for sale) —compare BALANCE OF PAYMENTS

balance sheet /'bæləns/ *n* a statement of how much money has come in and how much has gone out

Bal-an-chine /'bæləntʃɪn/ *n* [the] **George** (1904–83) a Russian-born American CHOREOGRAPHER who helped start the New York City Ballet

Bal-bo-a /bæl'boʊə/, **Vas-co Nú-ñez de** /'væskəʊ 'nu:njɛz də/ *n* (1475–1519) a Spanish EXPLORER who was the first European to discover the Pacific Ocean

bal-co-ny /'bælkəni/ *n* **1** a raised flat surface which is built out from the upstairs wall of a building: *You can see the sea from our balcony.* —see picture at HOUSE **2** also **circle**— the seats upstairs in a theatre —see picture at THEATRE

bald /bɔ:ld/ *adj* **1** with little or no hair on the head: *He's going bald.* | (humor) *He's as bald as a coot.* (=completely bald) **2** with little or no decoration or detail; plain: *a bald statement of the facts* — ~ness *n* [U]

bald eagle /'bɔ:ld/ *n* a large bird (EAGLE) with a white head which is the national bird of the US

bal-der-dash /'bɔ:ldədæʃ/ *n* [U] old-fash infml foolish talk or writing; nonsense

bald-ing /'bɔ:ldɪŋ/ *adj* going bald: *a balding man/ head*

bald-ly /'bɔ:ldli/ *adv* spoken plainly, without attempting to hide unpleasant facts: *To put it baldly, if you don't stop smoking you'll be dead in a year.*

bald eagle



Bald-win /'bɔ:ldwɪn/, **James** (1924–87) an American writer known for his NOVELS about black Americans, such as *Go Tell It on the Mountain* and *Another Country*

Baldwin, Stanley (1867–1947) a British Conservative politician who was PRIME MINISTER in the 1920s and 1930s

bale¹ /beɪl/ *n* a large tightly tied mass of esp. soft material ready to be taken away: *a bale of paper/hay/cotton*

bale² *v*

bale out *phr v* **1** [I (of)] BrE || **bail out** AmE— to escape from an aircraft by PARACHUTE **2** [I;T (=bale sthg. ↔ out)] BrE for BAIL out (2)

Bal-e-a-ric Is-lands /,bæliærɪk 'aɪləndz/ also **Bal-e-a-rics** /,bæli'ærɪks/ [the+P] a group of islands in the W Mediterranean, including Ibiza, Majorca, and Minorca

bale-ful /'beɪlfəl/ *adj* full of hate and desire to do harm; evil; threatening: *a baleful look* —fully *adv*

Bal-four /'bælfɔːr/, -fɔːr/, **Arthur James** (1848–1930) a British Conservative politician who was PRIME MINISTER from 1902 to 1905, and FOREIGN SECRETARY from 1916 to 1919, when he was responsible for the **Balfour Declaration** (which expressed the belief that a national home for the Jews should be made in Palestine)

Ba-li /'bɑ:li/ an island in Indonesia, to the east of Java

balk¹ also **baulk** BrE /bɔ:k, bɔ:lk/ *v* **1** [I (at)] to be unwilling to do or agree to something difficult or unpleasant: *I wanted to buy the dress, but I balked at the high price.* **2** [T] to stop or intentionally get in the way of **3** (in BASEBALL) to stop in the act of throwing the ball towards the player who is trying to hit it

balk² also **baulk** BrE— *n* a thick rough wooden beam

Bal-kans /'bɔ:lkənz/ also **Balkan States** /'bɔ:lkən/ [the] a part of SE Europe which includes Greece, Romania, Bulgaria, Albania, Yugoslavia, Slovenia, Croatia, and Bosnia

ball¹ /bɔ:l/ *n* **1** a usu. round object used in a game or sport: *The children were kicking a ball around the garden.* | *to bounce a ball* | *a tennis ball* **b** anything of a similar shape: *a ball of string* | *a snowball* | *a meatball* **2** a rounded part of the body: *the ball of the foot* (=at the base of the toes) | *an eyeball* —see picture at FOOT and HAND **3** an act or style of throwing a ball: *a fast ball* | *What a good ball!* —see also NO BALL **4** (in BASEBALL) a thrown ball which a player is not expected to swing at with his BAT because it is not within a certain area. After four such balls, the player may walk to first base **5** a round bullet or SHELL¹ (4) to be fired from a gun of a type now no longer used **6 ball and chain** a heavy ball of metal with a chain attached, that used to be fixed to prisoners' legs to stop them from escaping —see PRISONER **7 carry the ball** AmE to take responsibility, esp. in a difficult situation: *He's always left carrying the ball when things get rough.* **8 on the ball** infml apprec showing up-to-date knowledge and/or an ability to think and act quickly: *That new teacher is really on the ball.* **9 play ball** AmE to work well with someone; COOPERATE: *We tried to work out a fair deal but the other company's people just wouldn't play ball.* **10 set/start/keep the 'ball rolling** to begin/continue something, such as a conversation or a plan **11 The ball is in 'your/his/her court** Now it's your/his/her turn to take action or reply —see also BALLS

ball² *n* **1** [C] a large formal occasion for social dancing **2** [S] infml a very good time: *They all had a ball at the party.* **3 You 'shall go to the ball!** a phrase used by the FAIRY GODMOTHER to Cinderella in the story of Cinderella —see also CINDERELLA

Ball, Lu-cille /lu:'sɪl/ (1911–89) an American COMEDY actress known for her television shows *I Love Lucy*, *The Lucy Show*, and *Here's Lucy* which ran for many years and are still shown around the world

bal-lad /'bæləd/ *n* **1** a short story in the form of a poem **2** a simple song, esp. a popular love song

bal-lade /bæ'læd/ *n* a poem with usu. three groups of lines and a shorter fourth group all having the same last line and using a very small number of RHYMES

Bal-lard /'bælərd/ *n* [the] **J G** (1930–) an English writer, best known for his SCIENCE FICTION books and for his NOVEL *Empire of the Sun*

bal-last¹ /'bæləst/ *n* [U] heavy material, such as broken stones, which is carried by a ship to keep it steady **b** thrown from a BALLOON to make it rise **c** used as the

bottom surface of a road or as the surface on which railway lines are placed

ballast² *v* [T (with)] to fill or supply with ballast

ball bearing /,bɔːlˈbeɪrɪŋ/ *n* **1** an arrangement of metal balls moving in a ring round a bar in a machine so that the bar can turn more easily **2** any one of these metal balls

ball boy /ˈbɔːlˈbɔɪ/ **ball girl** *fem.* — *n* a young person who picks up balls for people playing in important tennis matches — see picture at TENNIS

ball-cock /ˈbɔːlkɒk/ *n* an apparatus for opening and closing a hole through which water passes, worked by a hollow floating ball which rises and falls with the level of the water

bal-le-ri-na /,bæləˈrɪːnə/ *n* a female ballet dancer

Bal-les-te-ros /,bælɪˈstɪərəs/ **Sev-e-ri-a-no** /,severiˈɑːnə/ (1957–) a Spanish GOLFERS who has won many competitions around the world

bal-let /ˈbæleɪ/ *n* **1** [C] (the music for) a theatrical performance in which a story is told using artistic dancing and music, but without speech or singing: *Tchaikovsky wrote (the music for) several famous ballets.* **2** [(the) U] such dancing as a form of art: *She has studied (the) ballet for six years.* | a ballet dancer **3** [C+sing./pl. *v*] also **corps de ballet** — a group of ballet dancers who work together: *the Bolshoi Ballet*

ball game /ˈbɔːlˈɡeɪm/ *n* [usu. sing.] *infml* **1** AmE a BASEBALL game **2** a state of affairs; situation: *I used to be a teacher, so working in an office is a whole new ball game for me.*

bal-lis-tic mis-sile /bəlɪstɪk ˈmɪsaɪl/ *n* a MISSILE that is guided as it rises into the air but then falls freely

bal-lis-tics /bəlɪstɪks/ *n* [U] the scientific study of the movement of objects that are thrown or forced through the air, such as bullets fired from a gun

bal-loon¹ /bəlˈluːn/ *n* **1** also **hot-air balloon** AmE a large bag of strong light material filled with gas or heated air so that it can float in the air: *They crossed the English Channel in a hot-air balloon.* **2** a small usu. brightly coloured rubber bag that can be blown up, used as a toy or decoration for parties, etc.: *All the children were given balloons.* **3** the line round the words spoken by the figures in a CARTOON **4** AmE money borrowed, esp. for a MORTGAGE, which must be paid in one large sum after several smaller payments have been made: *a 10% mortgage with a five-year balloon* **5 go down like a lead balloon** *infml* (of a remark, joke, suggestion, etc.) to fail to have the intended effect and esp. to produce disapproval: *His jokes about women drivers went down like a lead balloon.* **6 when the balloon goes up** BrE when the action starts or the moment of great danger arrives — see also TRIAL BALLOON

balloon² *v* [I (OUT, UP)] to get bigger and bigger, or rounder and rounder, like a balloon being blown up: *His cheeks ballooned (out) as he played his trumpet.*

bal-loon-ing /bəlˈluːnɪŋ/ *n* [U] the sport of flying in a balloon —ist *n*

bal-lot¹ /ˈbælət/ *n* **1** [C] a sheet of paper used to make a secret vote: *They're counting the ballots now.* **2** [(the) S] the process or system of secret voting: *The ballot is a vital part of the democratic process.* | *The leaders were accused of rigging the ballot.* (=arranging false results) | *When we put it to the ballot* (=had a vote) *the members decided to accept the management's offer.* **3** [C] an occasion of voting or a chance to vote: *The members have demanded a ballot.* | a strike ballot | a postal ballot **4** [C] the number of votes recorded; POLL

ballot² *v* **1** [I (for)] to vote or decide by secret voting: *They've balloted for the new chairman, but nobody knows the result yet.* **2** [T] to find out the views of (a group) by holding a vote: *They'll have to ballot the membership before they can declare a strike.*

ballot box /ˈbɔːlˈbɒks/ *n* **1** [C] a large (usu. tin) box into which the pieces of paper on which people record their votes are placed **2** [the] elections; the system or process of voting in an election: *Their popularity will be put to the test at/through the ballot box.*

ball park /ˈbɔːlˈpɑːk/ *n* [S] **1** *infml* a range of numbers, prices, etc. within which the correct figure is likely to be: *Their estimate was in the right ball park.* | a ball-park figure **2** AmE a playing field for BASEBALL, usu. with seats from which to watch the game

ball-play-er /ˈbɔːlpleɪər/ *n* AmE a person who plays BASEBALL: *a scout looking at the high school ballplayers*

ball-point /ˈbɔːlpɔɪnt/ also **ballpoint pen** /ˈbɔːlpɔɪnt/ *n* **1** *fml*, **biro** BrE *tdmk* — a pen with a ball at the end that rolls thick ink onto the paper

ball-room /ˈbɔːlruːm, -ruːm/ *n* a large room for dancing — see BALL² (1)

ballroom danc-ing /ˈbɔːlruːmˈdɑːnsɪŋ/ *n* [U] a formal kind of dancing done in pairs or groups to special music, such as the WALTZ or the FOXTROT. Ballroom dancing is usu. done by older people, and considered old-fashioned by many young people.

balls¹ /bɔːlz/ *n* **taboo sl** **1** [P] TESTICLES **2** [U] *derog* nonsense: *That's a load of balls.* **3** [U] daring self-confidence; CHEEK: *It must have taken a lot of balls to tell the director he was wrong.*

balls² *v* **balls sthg. up** BrE || **ball sthg. up** AmE — *phr v* [T] *taboo sl* to do badly or unsuccessfully; spoil — **balls-up** /ˈbɔːlsʌp/ *n* BrE *sl*: *He made a complete balls-up of the arrangements.*

ball-sy /ˈbɔːlzi/ *adj sl* having a lot of spirit or courage: *He's a ballsy kind of guy.*

bal-ly /ˈbæli/ *adj, adv* [A] BrE *old-fash* BLOODY²; used esp. by older, upper-class people

bal-ly-hoo /ˈbæliˈhuː/ *n* [U] *infml* ways of trying to gain public attention by making a lot of noise or through exciting kinds of advertising

balm /bɑːm/ *n* [C;U] **1** (an) oily liquid with a strong but pleasant smell, often from trees, used as medicine or to lessen pain **2** *esp. lit* something that gives comfort to the spirit

Bal-mor-al /bælˈmɒrəl/ *n* also **Balmoral Cas-tle** /ˈbɔːlmɒrəlˈkɑːsl/ — a castle in Scotland, NE of Braemar, which is one of the homes of the British royal family: *After their holiday in Spain, Charles and Diana will join the Queen at Balmoral.*

bal-m-y /ˈbɑːmi/ *adj* *apprec* (of air) soft and warm; MILD: *a balmy breeze* | *balmy days*

ba-lo-ney /bəˈləʊni/ *n* [U] *sl* BOLONEY

bal-sa /ˈbɔːlsə/ *n* [C;U] (the very light wood of) a tropical American tree

bal-sam /ˈbɔːlsəm/ *n* [C;U] (a tree that produces) BALM

Bal-tic /ˈbɔːltɪk/ *n* [the] a sea which is part of the Atlantic, enclosed by Denmark, Sweden, the Baltic States, and Poland

Baltic States /ˈbɔːltɪkˈsteɪts/ *n* [(the)+P] the independent countries of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania

Bal-ti-more /ˈbɔːltɪmə/ *n* a city on the E coast of the US, in the state of Maryland. Baltimore is one of the busiest sea ports in the US. — see colour maps on pages 1374–5

bal-us-trade /ˈbæləˈstreɪd/ *n* a row of upright pieces of stone or wood with a bar along the top, guarding the outer edge of any place from which people might fall

Bal-zac /ˈbælzæk/ *n* **Hon-o-ré de** /ˈɒnəriˈdeɪ/ (1799–1850) a French writer who wrote about French society in NOVELS such as *La Comédie humaine*

Bam-bi /ˈbæmbi/ *n* the title of a CARTOON film by Walt Disney about a young DEER called Bambi. Bambi is remembered as being an attractive, gentle animal, and the film is remembered for being sad.

bam-boo /ˈbæmbuː/ *n* **-boos** [C;U] a tall tropical plant of the grass family or its hard, hollow, jointed stems, which are used e.g. for making furniture

Bamboo Cur-tain /ˈbæmbuːˈkɜːtɪn/ *n* [the] a political BARRIER between China and the other important powers e.g. the US and the former USSR, esp. during the time of Mao Ze-dong — compare IRON CURTAIN

bam-boo-zle /ˈbæmbuːzəl/ *v* [T (into, out of)] *sl* to deceive; trick; HOODWINK

ban¹ /bæn/ *v* **-nn-** [T (from)] **1** to forbid, esp. by law: *The new military government has banned strikes and demonstrations.* | *After the accident, he was banned from driving.* | *banned books/films* **2 Ban the Bomb** a phrase used by people who marched in protests against the use of NUCLEAR WEAPONS, esp. in the 1960s

ban² *n* [(on)] an order banning something: *The union has imposed (=established) a ban on overtime/lifted*

(=removed) *the ban on overtime*. | *an alcohol ban* —see also TEST BAN

ba-nal /bə'næl/, bə'næl/ *adj* *derog* uninteresting because very common; lacking new or original ideas: *a banal remark* —**banality** /bə'nælɪti/ *n* [C;U]

ba-na-na /bə'nɑ:nə||-næ-/ *n* **1** a long thick curved tropical fruit, having a yellow skin and a soft, sweet inside when ripe —see picture at FRUIT **2 top banana** *AmE infml* the most important person in an organization; the BOSS: *He's the top banana at a record company*.

banana re-public /-...-l-/ *n infml derog* a small country, esp. in Central or S America, that is industrially underdeveloped, politically unsteady, and often dependent on financial support from abroad

ba-na-nas /bə'nɑ:nəz||-næ-/ *adj AmE sl* **1** mad, crazy: *Everyone on the block thinks Mr. Allan is bananas because he walks his dog at midnight*. **2 go bananas** become wild or angry: *Dad will go bananas when he sees the mess you've made with his tools*.

banana skin /-...-l-/ *n BrE infml* an event or situation likely to cause difficulty or make one look foolish (from a typical humorous situation in British COMEDY, in which a person slips on a banana skin and falls over): *This incident could turn into another banana skin for the government*.

banana split /-...-l-/ *n* a sweet dish made of a banana split in two with ICE CREAM, chocolate liquid (SAUCE), whipped cream, and nuts

Ban-bu-ry /'bænbəri||-beri/ a market town in Oxfordshire, England, known for the stone cross which features in a NURSERY RHYME: *Ride a cock horse to Banbury Cross*

band¹ /bænd/ *n* **1** a flat narrow often endless piece of material **a** for fastening things together or for putting round something to strengthen it: *She tied her hair back with a rubber band*. **b** forming part of an article of clothing: *the neckband of a shirt* | *the waistband of a pair of trousers* **2** a line of a colour or pattern different to that of the area or material on either side of it; STRIPE: *There was an orange band along the snake's back*. **3** a range of values, amounts, radio waves, etc.: *people within the \$20,000 — \$30,000 income band*

band² *n* [C+*sing./pl.* v] **1** a group of people formed for some common purpose and often with a leader: *a band of robbers* **2** a group of musicians, esp. a group that play popular music: *a dance band* | *a brass band* | *a rock/jazz band* —compare ORCHESTRA; see also ONE-MAN BAND —see to beat the band (BEAT¹ (20))

band³ *v*

band together *phr v* [I (against)] to unite with some special purpose: *The two parties banded together to form an alliance*.

Ban-da /'bændə/, Hastings (1902–) a Malawi politician, president from 1964, who led the movement for independence in his country

ban-dage¹ /'bændɪdʒ/ *BrE* || also **gauze** *AmE*— *n* **1** a long narrow piece of material, usu. cloth, for tying round a wound or round a part of the body that has been hurt **2** *AmE* also **Band-Aid** (*tdmk*) PLASTER¹ (2)

bandage² *v* [T (UP)] to tie up or bind round with a bandage: *The doctor bandaged (up) her broken ankle*. | *a bandaged arm*

Band Aid /-...-l/ *tdmk* a CHARITY set up by Bob Geldof in 1984 to raise money for people dying of hunger in Ethiopia, by getting many famous POP singers to make a record together, called *Do They Know It's Christmas?* They also organized the **Live Aid** concerts in London and Philadelphia in 1985.

Band-Aid *n tdmk, AmE for* PLASTER¹ (2)

ban-dan-na, -dana /bæn'dænə/ *n* a large brightly coloured handkerchief, worn round the neck or head

Ban-da-ra-na-i-ke /,bændərə'naiɪkə/, **Sir-i-ma-vo** /sɪrɪ'mɑ:vəʊ/ (1916–) a Sri Lankan politician who in 1960 became the first woman PRIME MINISTER in the world after the death of her husband Solomon Bandaranaike

b and b, **B and B** /,bɪz ənd 'bɪz/ *abbrev. for:* BED AND BREAKFAST

ban-dit /'bændɪt/ *n* an armed robber, esp. one of an armed band who attack travellers in wild places —see also ONE-ARMED BANDIT

band-mas-ter /'bænd,mɑ:stə||-mæ-/ *n* a man who

CONDUCTS (=directs the playing of) a military band, brass band, etc.

ban-do-leer, **bandolier** /,bændə'liə||-lɪə/ *n* a belt that goes over a person's shoulder, and is used for carrying bullets

B & Q /,bɪz ənd 'kju:z/ one of a group of shops in Britain selling goods used for decorating or improving the home and garden, usu. at low prices

bands-man /'bændzmən/ *n* -men /mən/ a musician who plays in a military band, brass band, etc.

band-stand /'bændstænd/ *n* a raised place, open at the sides but with a roof, for a band playing music in the open air

band-wa-gon /'bænd,wægən/ *n* **1** a group, political party, movement, etc. that attracts support or followers because of its quick success or growth of popularity **2 jump/climb/get on the bandwagon** to begin to do something that a lot of other people are doing, esp. in the hope of personal advantage

band-y¹ /'bændi/ *adj* **1** (of legs) curving outwards at the knees **2** also **bandy-legged** /-...-lɪd||-lɪd-/ — having bandy legs

bandy sthg. **about/around** *phr v* [T] to spread (unfavourable or untrue ideas) by talking: *Several different figures have been bandied about, but these are the only correct ones*.

bandy² *v* **bandy words (with)** *old-fash* to quarrel (with)

bane /beɪn/ *n* the bane of one's existence/life a cause of continual trouble: *That car is the bane of my life!*

bane-ful /'beɪnfəl/ *adj* esp. *lit* harmful; evil: *a baneful influence* — ~ly *adv*

Banff /bænf/ a holiday town in Banff National Park in the Rocky Mountains in Alberta, Canada

Banff-shire /'bænfʃə||-ʃɪə/ a former COUNTY in NE Scotland, now part of Grampian REGION

bang¹ /bæŋ/ *v* **1** [T] to hit sharply, esp. by accident; BUMP: *He fell and banged his knee*. | *I banged my head on the low ceiling*. **2** [I+*adv/prep*; T+*obj+adv/prep*] to (cause to) knock, beat, or move violently and with a loud noise: *She banged the chair against the wall*. | *They were banging on the door with their fists*. | *He banged the book down on the table*. **3** [I] to make a sharp loud noise or noises: *There is someone banging about upstairs*. | *I could hear the garage door banging (in the wind)*. —see also **bang one's head against a brick wall** (HEAD¹)

bang² *n* **1** [C] a sharp knock or blow: *She fell and got a nasty bang on the knee*. **2** a sudden loud noise: *The door shut with a bang*. **3** [S] *infml* a strong or powerful effect; IMPACT: *The publication of the new magazine has made less of a bang than the publishers hoped for*. **4** *AmE infml* a strong feeling of pleasure: *She got a real bang out of the song the kids made up about her*. **5 go off with a bang** *BrE* || **go over with a bang** *AmE*— to be very successful: *The party really went off with a bang!* **6 not with a bang but a whimper** *quote* a phrase from a poem by T S Eliot, often used when saying that something does not end in an exciting way, but just stops in a very uninteresting and unexciting way: *That is the way the revolution ends, not with a bang but with a whimper*. —see also BIG BANG THEORY

bang³ *adv* [+*adv/prep*] *infml* **1** directly or exactly: *The sales figures are bang on target*. | *Your answer's bang on*. (=exactly correct) | *The lights went out bang in the middle of the performance*. **2 bang goes (something)** that is the end of (something): *If we don't keep the price down, bang go our chances of getting the contract*.

bang⁴ also **bangs** *pl.*— *AmE n* hair cut straight across the forehead; FRINGE

bang-er /'bæŋə||-ɪə/ *n BrE infml* **1** a SAUSAGE **2** an old car in poor condition; JALOPY **3** a cheap, noisy FIREWORK

bangers and mash /-...-l/ *n* [U] *BrE infml* cooked SAUSAGES and mashed (MASH¹) potatoes, considered to be a typical British meal

Bang-kok /bæŋ'kɒk||-kɔ:k/ the capital city and main port of Thailand. It is famous for its TEMPLES and other beautiful buildings.

Ban-gla-desh /,bæŋglə'deʃ/ *n* a country in S Asia which is a member of the COMMONWEALTH(1), and often has bad floods in the rainy season; capital Dhaka; population 106,507,000 (1989) —**deshi** *n, adj*

ban-gle /'bæŋgəl/ *n* a hard narrow band of gold, silver, etc.

worn round the arm or ankle as a decoration —compare BRACELET

bang-on /ˌbæŋ.ən/ *adj* *BrE infml* exactly correct or highly ACCURATE: *His estimate of how long the journey would take was bang-on.*

Ban-gor /ˈbæŋɡə/ a city and port on the NW coast of Wales, which has a university

bang-up /ˌbæŋ.ʊp/ *adj* *AmE infml* very good: *He did a bang-up job fixing the plumbing.*

ban-ish /ˈbæniʃ/ *v* [T (from)] 1 to send away by official order, usu. from one's own country, esp. as a punishment: *She was banished by the government for political reasons.* —compare EXILE 2 to force to leave; drive away: *Those noisy children should be banished from the library.* | *You can banish that idea from your mind.* — ~ **ment** *n* [U]: *to go/be sent into banishment*

ban-is-ter /ˈbæni.stə/ also **banisters** *pl.* — *n* a row of upright pieces of wood or metal with a bar along the top guarding the outer edge of stairs: *The children were sliding down the banister/the banisters.* —compare HANDRAIL, RAILING

ban-jo /ˈbændʒə/ *n* -jos or -joes a musical instrument with four or more strings, a long neck, and a body like a drum, used esp. to play popular music

bank¹ /bæŋk/ *n* 1 (a local office of) a business organization which performs services connected with money, esp. keeping money for customers and paying it out on demand, or lending money to customers: *The major banks have announced an increase in interest rates.* | *She works at the bank in the High Street.* | *I think she's a lot more interested in your bank balance (=your money) than your personality!* 2 a place where something is kept until it is ready for use, esp. products of human origin for medical use: *a kidney bank* | *Hospital blood banks have saved many lives.* 3 (a person who keeps) a supply of money or pieces for payment or use in a game of chance —see also **break the bank** (BREAK¹ (23)) and CLEARING BANK, MERCHANT BANK

bank² *v* 1 [T] to put or keep (money) in a bank 2 [I (with)] to keep one's money (in the stated bank): *Who do you bank with?*

bank on/upon sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] to depend on; trust in: *I'm banking on/you/on your help.* [+*v-ing*] *We mustn't bank on getting their agreement.* [+*obj+to-v*] *I'm banking on you to help me with the arrangements.* [+*obj+v-ing*] *We were banking on John knowing the way.*

bank³ *n* 1 land along the side of a river, lake, etc.: *the left bank of the Seine* | *the banks of the River Nile* —see SHORE (USAGE) 2 a pile or RIDGE of earth, mud, snow, etc.: *They sat on a grassy bank at the edge of the field watching the game of cricket.* 3 a mass of clouds, mist, etc.: *The banks of dark cloud promised rain.* 4 a slope made at bends in a road or racetrack, so that they are safer for cars to go round 5 a SANDBANK: *the Dogger Bank in the North Sea*

bank⁴ *v* [I] (of a car or aircraft) to move with one side higher than the other when making a turn

bank up *phr v* [I;T (=bank sthg. ↔ up)] to form into a mass or pile: *The wind had banked the snow up against the wall.* | *At night we bank up the fire so that it's still burning in the morning.*

bank⁵ *n* [(of)] a set of things arranged in a row, esp. a row of OARS in an ancient boat or of KEYS on a TYPEWRITER

bank ac-count /ˌbæŋ.əˈkaʊnt/ *n* an arrangement between a bank and a customer under which the customer can pay in and take out money: *I'd like to open (=start) a bank account.* —see also CURRENT ACCOUNT, DEPOSIT ACCOUNT, SAVINGS ACCOUNT

Bank-A-mer-i-ca /ˌbæŋkəˈmerɪkə/ the second largest bank in the US, with its main offices in San Francisco

bank bal-ance /ˌbæŋˈbæl.əns/ *n* [S] the amount of money a person has in their bank account, or the amount of money they have generally: *The profits from his company have given him a very healthy bank balance.*

bank-book /ˌbæŋkˈbʊk/ *n* a book in which a record of the money one puts into and takes out of a bank is kept —compare PASSBOOK

bank draft /ˌbæŋˈdraʊt/ also **bank-bill** /ˌbæŋkˈbɪl/, **banker's draft** /ˌbæŋkəˈdraʊt/ *n* an order by one bank to another (esp. a foreign bank) to pay a certain sum of money to a named person or organization

bank-er /ˈbæŋkə/ *n* 1 a person who owns or manages a BANK¹ (1) 2 the player who keeps the BANK¹ (3) in various games of chance

banker's card /ˌbæŋkəˈkɑːd/ *n* *BrE* a CHEQUE CARD —compare DEBIT CARD

banker's or-der /ˌbæŋkəˈɔːdə/ *n* a STANDING ORDER

bank hol-i-day /ˌbæŋkˈhɒlɪˌdaɪ/ *n* 1 *BrE* || **public holiday** *AmE* an official public holiday, not a Saturday or Sunday, when banks and most businesses are closed, esp. one in the Spring (**Spring bank holiday**) and one in August (**August bank holiday**, also called **Late Summer Holiday**). These two bank holidays are always on a Monday (**Bank Holiday Monday**), and the weekend when they take place is known as a **bank holiday weekend**: *There are bound to be traffic jams over the bank holiday weekend as people head for the coast.* —see also extra information on page 629 2 *AmE* a period when banks are closed, usu. by government order, to prevent money difficulties

bank-ing /ˈbæŋkɪŋ/ *n* [U] the business of a bank or a banker: *a career in banking* | *the international banking system*

bank man-a-ger /ˌbæŋkˈmæn.ədʒə/ *n* a person who manages a bank. The British STEREOTYPE of a bank manager is a boring, old-fashioned, MIDDLE-AGED man wearing a suit.

bank note /ˌbæŋkˈnəʊt/ *n* a piece of paper money printed for the national bank of a country for public use

Bank of Cred-it and Com-merce In-ter-na-tion-al /ˌbæŋk ɒf kredɪt ænd kɒmˈmɜːs iːntəˈnæʃənəl/ see BCCI

Bank of En-gland /ˌbæŋk ɒf ɪŋˈɡlænd/ *n* [the] the central bank in Britain, which acts as banker to the government and to the HIGH STREET BANKS

Bank of Scot-land /ˌbæŋk ɒf skɒtˈlənd/ [the] one of the main banks in Scotland. Like other Scottish banks, it prints its own banknotes.

bank rate /ˌbæŋkˈreɪt/ *n* [the;U] the rate of interest fixed by a central bank, such as the Bank of England. The bank rate influences the rates of interest charged by all banks and building societies (BUILDING SOCIETY) for the LOAN of money, and the rate of interest paid to savers.

bank-roll¹ /ˌbæŋkˈrɒl/ *n* *AmE* a supply of money

bankroll² *v* [T] *AmE infml* to supply money for or pay the cost of (a business, plan, etc.)

bank-rupt¹ /ˈbæŋkrʌpt/ *adj* 1 unable to pay one's debts. When people declare that they are bankrupt lawyers take charge of all their money and goods and sell them in order to pay their debts: *He started a small business, but went bankrupt when the recession started.* —compare INSOLVENT 2 lacking in a particular desirable quality: *morally bankrupt* (=completely without moral principles) | *bankrupt of new ideas*

bankrupt² *n* a person who is bankrupt

bankrupt³ *v* [T] to make bankrupt or very poor: *The cost of defending the libel action almost bankrupted the small magazine.*

bank-rupt-cy /ˈbæŋkrʌptsi/ *n* [C;U] (an example of) the state of being or becoming bankrupt: *The company is threatened with bankruptcy.* | *There has been a sharp increase in bankruptcies in the last two years.* | *the bankruptcy of the government's plans* (=their failure to produce good results, etc.)

Banks /ˈbæŋks/, **Gordon** (1937–) an English football player, generally thought to be one of the best GOALKEEPERS to have played for England

bank state-ment /ˌbæŋkˈsteɪmənt/ *n* a document sent regularly by a bank to a customer holding a CURRENT ACCOUNT. It lists all the amounts received by and paid out from the account.

ban-ner /ˈbænə/ *n* 1 a long piece of cloth on which a sign is painted, often carried between two poles: *The marchers waved banners saying "We want work".* 2 *lit* a flag 3 **under the banner of** in the name of (a principle or aim); for the cause of: *The new government came to power under the banner of fighting poverty.*

banner head-line /ˌbænəˈhedlaɪn/ *n* a HEADLINE that goes across the whole width of a newspaper

Ban-nis-ter /ˈbæni.stə/, **Sir Roger** (1929–) an English ATHLETE who, in 1954, was the first person to run a mile in under four minutes

ban-nock /ˈbænək/ *n* *esp. ScotE* a flat cake made of OATMEAL or MAIZE

Ban-nock-burn /'bænəkɒkɜ:n||-bɜ:n/ a village in the central part of Scotland close to a famous battlefield where, in 1314, Robert the Bruce, King of the Scots, defeated the English

banns /bænz/ *n* [P] a public declaration, usu. made in church, of an intended marriage. In Britain, banns are read out on three separate Sundays before a marriage takes place. They include the words, "If any of you know cause or just impediment, why these two persons should not be joined together in holy Matrimony, ye are to declare it". In the US banns are not usu. declared now.

ban-quet /'bæŋkwɪt/ *n* a formal dinner for many people in honour of a particular person or occasion

banquet *v* [I] to take part in a banquet

Ban-quo /'bæŋkwəʊ/ a character in Shakespeare's play *Macbeth*, who is murdered by Macbeth but returns during a FEAST (=large meal) as a GHOST to HAUNT Macbeth and remind him of his crime

ban-shee /bæn'ʃi:|bæn'ʃi:/ *n* (esp. in Ireland) a spirit whose cry is believed to mean that there will be a death in the house

ban-tam /'bæntəm/ *n* a small kind of farm chicken

ban-tam-weight /'bæntəmweɪt/ *n* a BOXER heavier than a FLYWEIGHT but lighter than a FEATHERWEIGHT

ban-ter /'bæntər/ *n* [U] light joking talk; REPARTEE: *The actress exchanged banter with reporters.*

banter *v* [I] to speak or act playfully or jokingly — *~ing* *adj*: *bantering remarks* — *~ingly* *adv*

Ban-tu /,bæn'tu:ə/ *n* **Bantu** 1 [*the*+P] a race of black people who live in central, Eastern, and Southern Africa 2 [U] one of a group of African languages spoken in central and Southern Africa

Ban-tu-stan /,bæntu:'sta:n/ *n* one of the partly self-governing areas in the Republic of South Africa set aside by the government for black citizens. The official name for these areas is HOMELANDS

ban-yan /'bænjən, 'bænjən/ also **banyan tree** /'.., /- *n* an Indian fruit tree whose branches grow down towards the ground and form new roots

bap /bæp/ *n* BrE a large soft bread ROLL, usu. with a fine covering of flour on top

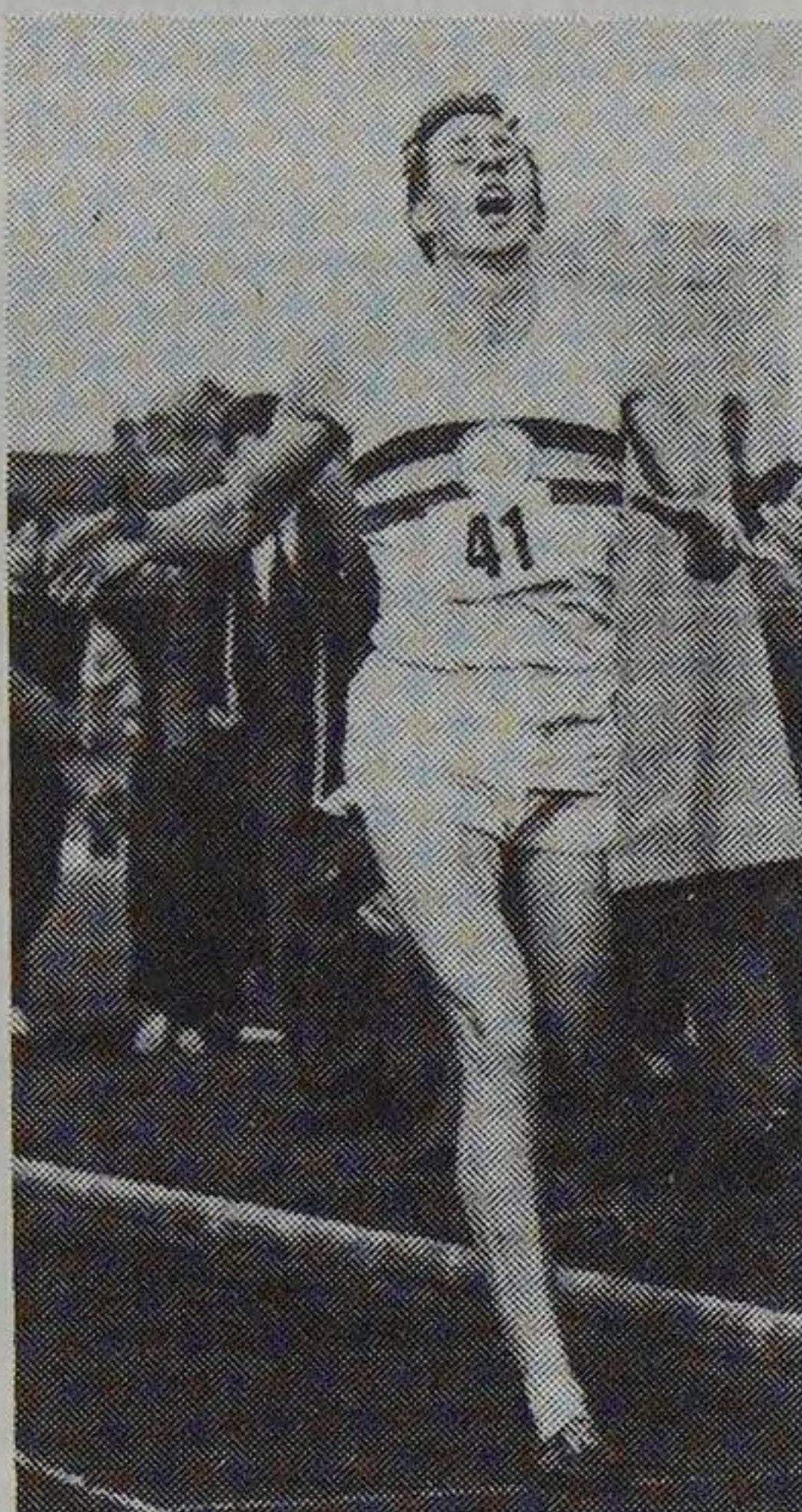
bap-tis-m /'bæptɪzəm/ *n* 1 [C;U] a Christian religious ceremony in which a person is touched or covered with water to make them pure and free from guilt or SIN and show that they have been accepted as a member of the Church. Baptism is often also used as a ceremony for officially giving a name to a baby. —see also CHRISTEN, GOD-PARENT 2 **baptism of fire** a difficult or unpleasant first experience of something —**mal** /bæp'tɪzməl/ *adj*

Bap-tist /'bæptɪst/ *n* a member of a Christian group which believes that baptism should be only for people old enough to understand its meaning and that they should be covered completely with water. The Baptists are the largest PROTESTANT group in the US, with many churches, esp. in the South —see also SOUTHERN BAPTIST

bap-tize also **-tise** BrE /bæp'taɪz/ *v* [T] 1 to perform the ceremony of baptism on (a person). In many Christian Churches babies are baptized when they are quite young, but some Churches believe that only adults can be baptized, when they are able to make their own choice to do it. 2 [+obj+*n*] to admit as a member of the stated church by baptism: *He was baptized a Roman Catholic.* 3 [+obj+*n*] to give (someone) a name at baptism: *She was baptized Sheila Jane.*

bar /bɑ:ɪ/ *n* 1 a piece of solid material that is longer than it is wide: *a bar of soap/chocolate/gold/iron* —see picture at PIECE 2 a length of wood or metal across a door, gate, or window to keep it shut or prevent movement through

Roger Bannister



it: *There were bars across the windows of the prison.* | (fig.) *His bad English is a bar to (=prevents) his getting a job.* | (fig.) *The government has announced a total bar on imports of luxury cars.* 3 (a place with) a COUNTER¹ where alcoholic drinks are served: *There are several bars in the hotel.* | *There were no free tables, so they stood at the bar.* | *What time does the bar close?* **b** a particular kind of food or drink is served: *a coffee bar* | *a snack bar* | *a sandwich bar* —see also WINE BAR 4 (in a court of law) a division between the part in which the business of the court is carried on and the part intended for the prisoner or the public: *the prisoner at the bar* (=the person being tried) | (fig.) *Your policies will be judged at the bar of public opinion.* (=by the public) —see also BAR 5 a group of notes and rests in music that add up to a particular time value: *She sang the first three bars of the song, and then stopped.* 6 a bank of sand or stones under the water parallel to a shore, at the entrance to a HARBOUR, etc. 7 esp. lit a narrow band of colour or light: *bars of sunlight* 8 a narrow band of metal or cloth worn on a military uniform to show rank, service, or good performance 9 a CROSSBAR 10 **behind bars** in prison —see also BARRED (1), COLOUR BAR

bar *v* -rr- [T] 1 [(UP)] to close firmly with a bar: *to bar the door* | *The empty house was barred up for the winter.* (=closed completely) —opposite **unbar** 2 [+obj+adv/prep] to keep in or out by barring a door, gate, etc.: *They barred themselves in.* | *She barred them out of her room.* 3 [often pass.] to prevent movement through or into; block: *After the bombing, the whole area was barred to the public.* | *The road ahead was barred by a solid line of policemen.* 4 [(from)] **a** to prevent from entering; keep out: *The members voted to bar women from the club.* | *Traffic has been barred from the city centre.* **b** to forbid; PROHIBIT: *He has been barred from playing for two weeks because of bad behaviour.* —see also **no holds barred** (HOLD²)

bar *prep* except: *The whole group was at the party, bar John.* | *He's the best singer in the country, bar none.* (=without any exceptions) —see also BARRING

Bar *n* [*the*+sing./pl. *v*] 1 BrE (the members of) the profession of BARRISTER 2 AmE (the members of) the profession of lawyer 3 **be called to the Bar**: **a** BrE to become a BARRISTER **b** AmE to become a lawyer

barb /bɑ:b||bɑ:rb/ *n* 1 the sharp point of a fish hook, ARROW, etc., with a curved shape which prevents it from being easily pulled out 2 a remark that is clever or amusing but also cruel and sharp —see also BARBED

Bar-ba-dos /bɑ:'beɪdəs||bɑ:r'beɪdəs, -dəs/ an island in the British West Indies, part of the COMMONWEALTH since 1966; capital Bridgetown; population 256,000 (1989) —**dian** *n, adj*

bar-bar-i-an /bɑ:'beəriən||bɑ:r-/ *n* often derog an uncivilized person, esp. one who is rough and wild in behaviour: *The barbarians conquered Rome.* | (fig.) *barbarians who had never even heard of the great composer* —**barbarian** *adj*: *barbarian manners*

Bar-bar-i-ans /bɑ:'beəriənz||bɑ:r-/ [*the*] a Rugby Union team based in Britain, with players from several countries. Teams from other countries which come to Britain often play against the Barbarians.

bar-bar-ic /bɑ:'bæɪɪk||bɑ:r-/ *adj* usu. derog 1 very cruel; BRUTAL: *a barbaric act of terrorism* | *barbaric tortures* 2 of or like a barbarian; BARBAROUS: *barbaric people/customs* —**~ally** /kli/ *adv*

bar-bar-is-m /'bɑ:bəɪzəm||'bɑ:r-/ *n* usu. derog 1 [U] the rough uncivilized condition of being a barbarian: *At that time, most of the peoples of northern Europe were in a state of barbarism.* 2 [C] *fml* an offensive word or action, esp. a mistake in the use of language

bar-bar-i-ty /bɑ:'bæɪɪti||bɑ:r-/ *n* [C;U] (an example of) cruelty of the worst kind: *The barbarities of the last war must not be repeated.*

bar-bar-ize also **-ise** BrE /'bɑ:bəraɪz||'bɑ:r-/ *v* [T] to make cruel and rough in manners

bar-bar-ous /'bɑ:bərəs||'bɑ:r-/ *adj* usu. derog 1 rough and uncivilized: *barbarous people* 2 very cruel; BARBARIC 3 *fml* offensive in behaviour or manners, esp. by making mistakes in the use of language: *a barbarous writer/style* —**~ly** *adv*

bar-be-cue /'bɑ:bɪkjʊ:|'bɑ:r-/ also **barbie** AustrE and BrE

infml — **bbq** *AmE infml* — *n* 1 a metal frame on which to cook food, esp. meat, over an open fire, usu. outdoors 2 a party at which food is prepared in this way and eaten: *We had a barbecue on the beach.*

barbecue² *v* [T] to cook (meat) **a** on a barbecue: *barbecued chicken* **b** in a very hot SAUCE

barbed /bɑːbd/ || bɑːrbd/ *adj* 1 with one or more BARBS or short sharp points: *a barbed hook* 2 (of something spoken or written) sharp and unkind, esp. in judging a person, their ideas, etc.: *a barbed remark*

barbed wire /,bɑːˈwaɪər/ also **barbwire** *AmE* — *n* [U] wire with short sharp points on it: *a barbed-wire fence to keep the cattle in*

bar-bell /ˈbɑː, bel/ || ˈbɑːr-/ *n* *AmE* a metal stick with round weights at each end which is lifted to build strength

bar-ber /ˈbɑːbə/ || ˈbɑːr-/ *n* a person (usu. a man) who cuts men's hair, sometimes SHAVES them, and who usu. works in a shop (**barber's** *BrE* || **barbershop** *AmE*): *I've got an appointment at the barber's.* — compare HAIRDRESSER

Barber, Sam-u-el /ˈsæmjʊəl/ (1910–81) an American COMPOSER whose main works are *Adagio for Strings* and the OPERA *Antony and Cleopatra*

Barber of Se-ville /,bɑːrəvɪl/ || ˈbɑːr-/ *The* an OPERA by Rossini, based on a French play by Beaumarchais

bar-ber-shop /ˈbɑːbəʃɒp/ || -bəˈfɑːp/ *adj* describing a style of singing popular songs in four parts in close HARMONY (=with the notes of each part close together in sound): *a barbershop quartet*

barber's pole /,bɑːbəˈpəʊl/ || ˈbɑːr-/ *n* a pole painted in red and white STRIPES (1), used as a street sign outside an old-fashioned men's hairdresser's (HAIRDRESSER)

bar-bi-can /ˈbɑːbɪkən/ || ˈbɑːr-/ *n* a tower for defence at a gate or bridge — see picture at CASTLE

Barbican [*the*] an area of modern buildings in the City of London, including the Barbican Arts Centre: *We went to see a film at the Barbican.* — see colour map on page 817

bar-bie /ˈbɑːbi/ || ˈbɑːr-/ *n* *Austr and BrE infml* a BARBECUE

Barbie doll /ˈbɑːbi dɒl/ || ˈbɑːr-/ *n* *tdmk* a DOLL in the shape of an attractive young woman, with a range of fashionable clothes, shoes, etc., used as a child's toy. In the US, a woman is sometimes said to be like a Barbie doll if she is attractive and likes clothes but is not very clever. — compare SINDY

bar bil-liards /,bɑːˈbɪliədz/ || ˈbɑːr-/ *n* [U] a game usu. played in pubs, in which players use long sticks (CUES) to push balls into holes in a table, without knocking over any of the small pieces of wood which stand near the holes

bar-bi-tu-rate /bɑːˈbɪtʃʊrɪt/ || ˈbɑːrˈbɪtʃʊrɪt, -reɪt/ *n* [C;U] *med* a powerful drug that makes people calm and puts them to sleep

Bar-bour /ˈbɑːbə/ || ˈbɑːr-/ *n* *tdmk* in Britain, a good quality, expensive coat which is quite short and made of a special material to protect one from rain and wind. Barbours are worn esp. by people who live or spend time in the country, but have also become fashionable with people who live in cities. — see also GREEN WELLIE BRIGADE

Barbour jackets



barb-wire /,bɑːbˈwaɪər/ || ˈbɑːr-/ *n* *AmE* BARBED WIRE

Bar-ce-lo-na /,bɑːsɪˈləʊnə/ || ˈbɑːr-/ a city and port in N Spain, on the Mediterranean

bar chart /ˈbɑːtʃ/ || also **bar graph** *AmE* — *n* a way of showing changes in amounts, e.g. of population or profits, which is similar to a GRAPH but uses RECTANGULAR shapes positioned side by side instead of a line or curve — see picture at CHART, and see also FLOWCHART, PIE CHART

Bar-clay-card /ˈbɑːkliːkɑːd/ || ˈbɑːrˈkliːkɑːd/ *n* *tdmk* [C;U] a CREDIT CARD available from Barclays Bank: *Do you take (=accept payment by) Barclaycard?* | *I've lost my Barclaycard.*

Bar-clays Bank /,bɑːklɪz ˈbæŋk/ || ˈbɑːr-/ also **Barclays** one

of the main British banks, branches of which can be found in many towns and cities in Britain

the symbol for Barclaycard



bar code /ˈbɑːkəʊd/ || ˈbɑːr-/ *n* a system of representing information in a way that can be read by a computer, consisting of a special LABEL made up of thick and thin lines on products in shops, factories, etc.

bard /bɑːd/ || bɑːrd/ *n* *lit* a poet

Bard of A-von /,bɑːd əv ˈeɪvən/ || bɑːrd-/ [*the*] a poetic name for William Shakespeare, after the river Avon at Stratford, where he was born

Bar-dot /bɑːˈdɒt/ || bɑːr-/ *Bri-gitte* /brɪˈʒɪt/ (1934–) a French film actress esp. famous in the 1950s and 60s, one of the main SEX SYMBOLS of that time

Brigitte Bardot



bare¹ /beər/ || bɛər/ *adj* 1 without clothes or covering: *bare skin* | *You'll cut yourself if you walk around here in bare feet.* | *The trees are bare.* (=without leaves) | *bare floorboards* (=not covered by any material) 2 not hidden; open to view or examination: *The investigation has laid bare their fraudulent scheme.* | *the bare truth* 3 [(of)] empty: *The cupboard was bare.* | *The thieves stripped the house bare.* (=took everything) | *a room bare of furniture* 4 [A] with nothing added: *I killed it with my bare hands.* (=without any weapon) | *Just give us the bare facts of the case.* | *the bare necessities of life* | *He did the bare minimum of revision* (=the smallest amount possible) *necessary to pass the exam.* — see also BARELY — ~ **ness** *n* [U]

bare² *v* [T] 1 to bring to view, esp. by taking off a covering; EXPOSE: *The dog bared its teeth.* | *He bared his head* (=took his hat off) *as a sign of respect when the funeral passed by.* 2 **bare one's heart/soul** to make known one's deepest feelings

bare-back /ˈbeəbæk/ || ˈbeər-/ *adj, adv* [A] on the bare back of a horse; without a SADDLE: *a bareback rider* | *to ride bareback*

bare bones /,bɛər ˈbəʊnz/ || ˈbeər-/ *n* [P (of)] the simplest but most important parts or facts: *the bare bones of the matter*

bare-faced /,beərˈfeɪst/ || ˈbeərfeɪst/ *adj* shameless and noticeable in an offensive way; BLATANT: *a barefaced lie* — ~ **ly** /,beərˈfeɪstli/ || -sɪdli/ || ˈbeərfeɪsɪdli/ || -stli/ *adv*

bare-foot /ˈbeəfʊt/ || ˈbeər-/ also **bare-foot-ed** /,beərˈfʊtɪd/ || ˈbeər-/ *adj, adv* without shoes or other covering on the feet: *The children go barefoot in summer.*

bare-head-ed /,beərˈhedɪd/ || ˈbeərhedɪd/ *adj, adv* without a hat or other covering on the head

bare-leg-ged /,beərˈlegɪd/ || -ˈlegd/ || ˈbeər-/ *adj, adv* with no covering on the legs

bare-ly /ˈbeəli/ || ˈbeərli/ *adv* 1 almost not; only just; hardly: *She had barely arrived when she had to leave again.* | *We*

have barely enough money to last the weekend. | The scar on her cheek is now barely noticeable. —see **HARDLY** (USAGE) **2** in a bare way: *The room was furnished barely.* (=with very little furniture)

Bar-en-boim /'bærənboim/, **Daniel** (1942–) an Israeli PIANIST and CONDUCTOR born in Argentina

barf /bɑ:f||bɑ:rf/ *v* [I] *AmE infml* VOMIT¹: *He'd been drinking too much and barfed all over the sidewalk.* —**barf** *n* [U]: *the smell of barf on the sidewalk*

barf bag /'· ·/ *n AmE infml* a small paper bag used on passenger aircraft by people who need to be sick

bar food /'· ·/ *n* [U] food obtainable at the bar of a PUB, usu. plain but filling hot meals or cold sandwiches (SANDWICH¹ (1))

bar-gain /'bɑ:gɪn||'bɑ:r-/ *n* **1** an agreement, made between two people or groups, to do something in return for something else: *We've made a bargain that he will do the shopping and I'll cook.* | *The management and the union leaders have struck a bargain.* (=reached an agreement) | *They haven't kept their side of the bargain.* | *Be careful if you're doing business with him; he drives a hard bargain.* (=tends to make agreements that are very much in his favour) **2** something for sale or bought for less than its real value: *These shoes are a real bargain at such a low price.* | *a bargain price* | *to go bargain hunting* (=looking for cheap things to buy) **3** any piece of business taking place on the STOCK EXCHANGE **4** into the bargain *BrE* in the bargain *AmE* in addition to everything else: *She had to look after four children, and her sick mother into the bargain.* **5** make the best of a bad bargain to do the best one can under difficult conditions

bargain² *v* [I (with, about)] to talk about the conditions of a sale, agreement, or contract; NEGOTIATE: *If you bargain with them they might reduce the price.* | *The increased demand for their skills has given these workers greater bargaining power.* — ~ **er** *n*: *wage bargainers*

bargain sthg. ↔ **away** *phr v* [T] to give away or give up in return for something of less value: *The unions bargained away their rights in exchange for a small pay rise.*

bargain for sbdy./sthg. , also **bargain on** sbdy./sthg. *AmE— phr v* [T *usu. in negatives*] to take into account; consider as likely or possible; expect: *I hadn't bargained for such heavy rain, and I got very wet.* [+*v-ing*] *We didn't bargain on spending so much money on hotels.* | *I just asked for a sandwich but I got more than I'd bargained for — they brought me an enormous plate of food!*

bargain base-ment /'· ·/ *n esp. AmE* a part of a large shop, usu. the BASEMENT (=floor below ground level), where goods are sold at reduced prices

barge¹ /bɑ:dʒ||bɑ:rdʒ/ *n* **1** a large low flat-bottomed boat used mainly for carrying heavy goods on a CANAL or river **2** a motorboat carried by naval ships for the use of officers **3** a large rowing boat used chiefly on rivers for important people on ceremonial occasions

barge² *v* [I+*adv/prep*] (of a person) to move in a heavy ungraceful way, often hitting against things: *He barged onto the bus before everyone else.* | *She ran round the corner and barged into* (=hit against) *one of the teachers.*

barge in *phr v* [I (on)] to enter or rush in rudely; interrupt: *The door burst open and the children barged in.* | *He's always barging in on other people's conversations.*

barg-ee /bɑ:'dʒi:z||bɑ:r-/ *BrE* || **barge-man** /'bɑ:dʒmən||'bɑ:rdʒ-/ *AmE— n* a person who drives or works on a barge on a CANAL

barge pole /'· ·/ *n* **1** a long pole used in pushing along and guiding a barge **2** I wouldn't touch it/him/her, etc. with a barge pole (*BrE*)/with a ten-foot pole (*AmE*) I want nothing to do with it/him/her

bar graph /'· ·/ *n AmE* for BAR CHART

bar-i-tone /'bærɪtəʊn/ *n* (a man with) a male singing voice lower than TENOR and higher than BASS

ba-ri-um meal /,beəriəm 'mi:l/ *n* a chemical substance that people drink before they have X-RAYS, so that their inner organs will show up more clearly

bark¹ /bɑ:k||bɑ:rk/ *v* **1** [I (at)] to make the short sharp loud sound that dogs and some other animals make: *The dog always barks at the postman.* **2** [T (OUT)] to say (something) in a sharp loud voice: *The officer barked (out) an order.* **3** bark at the moon *AmE* to make a great effort to do something useless **4** bark up the wrong tree

infml to direct one's efforts or actions at the wrong person or in the wrong direction; have a mistaken idea: *You're barking up the wrong tree if you think she'll be able to help you.*

bark² *n* **1** the sharp loud sound made by a dog —see also WOOF¹ **2** [*usu. sing.*] a sound or voice like this: *the bark of the guns* **3** his bark is worse than his bite *infml* he might shout a lot and seem frightening, but he is really quite nice

bark³ *n* [U] the strong outer covering of a tree

bark⁴ *v* [T] to rub the skin off (a knee, elbow, etc.) e.g. by falling: *She barked her shins against the wheelbarrow.*

bark⁵ also **barque— n** **1** a sailing ship with three MASTS, having square sails on the first two and a three-cornered sail on the third **2** lit a small sailing ship of any type

bar keeper /'· ·/ *n AmE* BARMAN

bark-er /'bɑ:kəʀ||'bɑ:r-/ *n* a person who stands outside a place of public amusement, esp. a CIRCUS, shouting to people to come in

Bar-ker, Ron-nie /'rɒni||'rɑ:z-/ (1929–) an English actor and COMEDIAN best-known for his parts in the British television programmes *Porridge*, *Open All Hours*, and esp. *The Two Ronnies*, in which he performed with Ronnie Corbett

bar-ley /'bɑ:li||'bɑ:rli/ *n* [U] a grasslike grain plant grown as a food crop for people and cattle, and also used in the making of alcoholic drinks, such as beer —see picture at CEREAL

Bar-ley-corn, John see JOHN BARLEYCORN

barley sug-ar /'· ·/ *n* [C;U] *BrE* a kind of sweet formerly made with barley, often eaten to prevent sickness during travelling

barley wa-ter /'· ·/ *n* [U] *BrE* a drink made from barley and fruit juice

barley wine /,· ·'· / *n* [U] *esp. BrE* a type of very strong beer

Bar-low /'bɑ:ləʊ||'bɑ:r-/ , **Ken** a character in the British television programme *Coronation Street*, sometimes mentioned as being a very boring character —see also CORONATION STREET

bar-maid /'bɑ:meid||'bɑ:r-/ *n esp. BrE* a woman who serves drinks in a BAR¹ (3a). The British STEREOTYPE of a barmaid is a friendly, attractive woman, usu. wearing a lot of MAKE-UP and often with large breasts.

bar-man /'bɑ:mən||'bɑ:r-/ also **bartender**, **bar keeper** *esp. AmE— n -men* /mən/ a man who serves drinks in a BAR¹ (3a)

bar mitz-vah /,bɑ: 'mitsvə||,bɑ:r-/ *n* **1** the religious ceremony held when a Jewish boy reaches the age of 13, the age of religious duty and responsibility **2** a boy for whom this ceremony is held

barm-y /'bɑ:mi||'bɑ:rmi/ *adj BrE infml* foolish or a little mad: *You must be barmy to go out playing football in weather like this.*

barn /bɑ:n||bɑ:rn/ *n* **1** a farm building for storing crops and food for animals, or for keeping animals in **2** *infml* a big bare plain building: *a great barn of a house* —see also DUTCH BARN

bar-na-cle /'bɑ:nəkəl||'bɑ:r-/ *n* a small SHELLFISH which collects in large numbers on rocks and on the bottoms of ships, and which is hard to remove

Bar-nard /'bɑ:nɑ:d||'bɑ:rnɑ:rd/, **Chris-ti-aan** /'krɪstɪən/ (1922–) a South African SURGEON who was the first to successfully TRANSPLANT a human heart into a patient

Bar-nar-do Home /bə'nɑ:rdəʊ ,həʊm||bər'nɑ:r-/ *n* in Britain, one of a group of special homes for very poor children or those who have no parents. The first Barnardo home was opened in London in 1867 by T. J. Barnardo

barn dance /'· ·/ *n* **1** a social gathering at which COUNTRY DANCES are performed, originally held in a barn **2** *esp. BrE* a dance performed at such a gathering

Barnes /bɑ:nz||bɑ:rnz/, **John** (1963–) an English international attacking footballer who played for Liverpool football club

bar-ney /'bɑ:ni||'bɑ:rni/ *n* [*usu. sing.*] *infml, esp. BrE* a noisy quarrel

Barns-ley /'bɑ:nzli||'bɑ:r-/ a town in S Yorkshire in N England, known esp. for its coal mines

barn-storm /'bɑ:nstɔ:m||'bɑ:rnstɔ:rm/ *v* [I] to travel from

place to place making short stops to give theatre performances or make political speeches — ~ **er** *n*

Bar-num /'bærənəm||'bær-/ **P T** (1810–91) an American most famous for the CIRCUS he began with James Bailey in 1881, which they called the “Greatest Show on Earth”

barn-yard /'bærnjɑ:d||'bærnjɑ:rd/ *n* a FARMYARD

ba-rom-e-ter /bə'rɒmɪtəʳ||-'rɑ:z/ *n* **1** an instrument for measuring the air pressure in order to judge probable changes in the weather or to calculate height above sea level **2** something that shows or gives an idea of changes e.g. in public opinion: *Tomorrow's by-election will be a barometer of the mood in the whole country.* — **-tric** /,bærə'metrɪk-/ *adj* — **-trically** /kli/ *adv*

bar-on /'bærən/ *n* **1** a British nobleman of the lowest rank **2** (*usu. in comb.*) a man, esp. a businessman, who has great power or influence: *an oil baron* | *a press baron who owns three national newspapers* | *union barons*

bar-on-ess /'bærənɪs/ *n* (in Britain) a woman who is a the wife of a baron **b** of that rank in her own right

bar-on-et /'bærənɪt, -net/ *n* a British KNIGHT¹ (2), lower in rank than a baron, whose title passes on to his son when he dies

bar-on-et-cy /'bærənɪtsi/ *n* the rank of a baronet

ba-ro-ni-al /bə'rəʊniəl/ *adj* **1** of or related to a BARON **2** large, rich, and noble: *a baronial hall*

bar-on-y /'bærəni/ *n* the rank of a BARON

ba-ro-que /bə'rɒk, bə'rəʊk||bə'rəʊk, -'rɑ:k/ *adj* in a highly decorated style which was fashionable in art, buildings, music, etc. in Europe during the 17th century — compare ROCOCO — **baroque** *n* [the]

barque /bɑ:k||bɑ:rk/ *n* a BARK⁵

Barr /bɑ:ʳ/, **Ro-seanne** /rəʊ'zæn/ the former name of Roseanne Arnold — see ROSEANNE ARNOLD

Bar-ra /'bærə/ an island of the Outer Hebrides, in the Western Isles of Scotland

bar-rack /'bærək/ *v* [I;T] **1** *BrE* to interrupt by shouting or pretended cheering; *JEER* (at): *They barracked (the speaker) throughout the meeting.* **2** *AustrE* to cheer in support (of)

bar-racks /'bærəks/ *n* **barracks** [C+*sing./pl. v*] a building or group of buildings that soldiers live in

bar-ra-cu-da /,bærə'kjʊ:də||-'kʊ:də/ *n* **-da** or **-das** a large fierce flesh-eating tropical fish

bar-age¹ /'bærɑ:ʒ||'bærɪdʒ/ *n* a bank of earth, stones, etc. built across a river to provide water for farming or to prevent flooding

bar-age² /'bærɑ:ʒ||bə'rɑ:ʒ/ *n* **1** the continuous firing of a number of heavy guns, done esp. to give protection to soldiers as they advance upon the enemy **2** [(of)] a large number of questions, statements, etc., made at almost the same time or very quickly one after the other: *a nonstop barrage of questions* | *a barrage of criticism*

barred /bɑ:d||bɑ:rd/ *adj* **1** having bars, esp. of the stated number: *a five-barred gate* **2** *fml* having bands of different colours: *barred feathers*

bar-rel¹ /'bærəl/ *n* **1** a round usu. wooden container with curved sides and a flat top and bottom: *a beer barrel* | *The wine is left to mature in oak barrels.* **2** [(of)] also **bar-rel-ful** /-fʊl/ — the amount of liquid that a barrel contains, esp. used as a unit of oil production: *This country produces almost 2 million barrels of oil per day.* | *The price of crude oil has gone up by 50 cents a barrel.* **3** a long tube-shaped part of a gun: *a rifle barrel* — see picture at GUN **4** **over a barrel** *infml* in a position of serious disadvantage: *They're charging an exorbitant price for fixing the car, but they've got us over a barrel because we can't do without it.* — see picture at CONTAINER, and see also **lock, stock, and barrel** (LOCK¹), **scrape the (bottom of the) barrel** (SCRAPE¹)

barrel² *v* **-l-** [I] *AmE infml* to move fast esp. unsafely: *He barreled along the road at 90 miles an hour.* | *She went barreling into the teacher as she ran around the corner.*

barrel or-gan /'.., .. / *n* a big musical instrument which can be moved from place to place and is played by turning a handle, usu. by street musicians for money. In the past, when street musicians played barrel organs, they often had a pet monkey who sat on the barrel organ.

bar-ren /'bærən/ *adj* **1** (of women or female animals) not able to produce children or young; INFERTILE **2** (of trees

or plants) producing no fruit or seed **3** (of soil) too poor to produce a good crop: *barren wastelands* **4** useless; empty; producing no result: *a barren discussion* — ~ **ness** *n* [U]

Bar-rett /'bærət/ a British building firm which builds houses in many parts of the country and is known esp. for its low-cost houses

bar-rette /bə'ret, bɑ:z-/ *n* *AmE* for HAIR SLIDE

bar-ri-cade¹ /'bærɪkeɪd, 'bærɪ'keɪd/ *n* a quickly-built structure of trees, earth, bricks, etc., put across a road or passage to stop anyone from passing or entering, and usu. intended for use over a limited time only

barricade² *v* [T] **1** to block off or close off with a barricade: *to barricade the street/the windows* **2** [+*obj+adv/prep*] to defend or shut in with a barricade: *The terrorists barricaded themselves in (the embassy).*

Bar-rie /'bæri/, **J M** (1860–1937) a Scottish writer of plays and stories, best known for his children's story *Peter Pan* — see also PETER PAN

bar-ri-er /'bæriəʳ/ *n* **1** something that is used to keep people or things apart or to prevent or control their movement: *The police put up barriers to control the crowd.* | *Show your ticket at the barrier before you board the train.* | *The football fans broke through the barriers and rushed onto the pitch.* | *The cream acts as a barrier against infection.* **2** [(to)] something non-physical that keeps people apart or prevents activity, movement, etc.: *social/ethnic/language barriers* | *Lack of confidence is the biggest barrier to investment in the region.* | *trade barriers such as import taxes*

bar-ring /'bɑ:rɪŋ/ *prep* except for: *Barring any last-minute problems (=if there are none) we should finish the job by tonight.* — see also BAR³

bar-ri-o /'bæriəʊ/ *n* *AmE* a poor part of an American town or city where many Spanish-speaking people live; GHETTO: *the barrios of Los Angeles*

bar-ri-ster /'bærɪstəʳ/ *n* esp. in England and Wales, a lawyer who has the right of speaking in the higher courts of law — compare ADVOCATE, SOLICITOR

bar-row¹ /'bærəʊ/ *n* **1** a small cart with two or four wheels, on which fruit, vegetables, etc. are put to be sold in street markets **2** a WHEELBARROW

barrow² *n* a TUMULUS

barrow boy /'.., .. / *n* esp. *BrE* a man or boy who sells goods, e.g. fruit or vegetables, from a barrow; COSTERMONGER

Bar-row-in-Fur-ness /,bærəʊ ɪn 'fɜ:nɪs||-'fɜ:r-/ an industrial town in NW England

bar snack /'.., .. / *n* *BrE* a light meal served in a PUB

Bart /bɑ:t||bɑ:rt/ written abbrev. for: BARONET: *Sir John Brown, Bart.*

bar-tend-er /'bɑ:tendəʳ||'bɑ:z-/ *n* esp. *AmE* for BARMAN

bar-ter /'bɑ:təʳ||'bɑ:z-/ *v* [I;T (for, with)] to exchange (goods) for other goods rather than for money; TRADE: *They bartered farm products for machinery.* | (fig.) *He bartered his freedom away for a little comfort.* — **barter** *n* [U]: *The system of barter was superseded by the use of money.*

Bart-on /'bɑ:tn||'bɑ:z-/ **Cla-ra** /'kleərə/ (1821–1912) an American nurse called the Angel of the Battlefield who worked in army camps during the American Civil War and the Franco-Prussian War and then set up and led the American Red Cross

Bart's /bɑ:ts||bɑ:rts/ also **St. Bartholomew's Hospital** a famous London teaching hospital whose history goes back to 1123

Bar-rysh-ni-kov /bə'rɪʃnɪkɒf||-kɔ:f/, **Mik-hail** /mɪ'kail/ (1948–) a Russian-born BALLET dancer and CHOREOGRAPHER who DEFECTED (left as a political protest) to the US

bas-alt /'bæsɔ:lt, bə'sɔ:lt||'bæ-, 'beɪ-/ *n* [U] a dark greenish-black rock

base¹ /beɪs/ *n* **1** [(the) S (of)] the lowest part of something, esp. the part on which something stands: *the base of a mountain/statue/pillar* | *Draw a square with the line “xy” as its base.* | *The coccyx is a small bone at the base of the spine.* **2** [*usu. sing.*] the original part or substance from which something develops or from which a mixture is made: *Many languages have Latin as their base.* | *soup with a vegetable base* | *a paint with an oil base* **3** [C] a centre from which something is controlled and where

Baseball

Baseball is a very popular sport in the US where it is often called the **national pastime**. Many people, esp. men, support a particular team and watch the games that their team plays.

Each team has a name, which usually includes the name of the town or city that the team is associated with. Some examples of names are: **Boston Red Sox**, **Minnesota Twins**, **Chicago Cubs**, and **Houston Astros**.

The two leagues together are known as the MAJOR LEAGUES. The playing season runs from late spring to October. The winning team in each league is called the PENNANT (2) champion. In October, the two pennant champions play against each other in seven games called the WORLD SERIES. The team that wins four games is the champion.

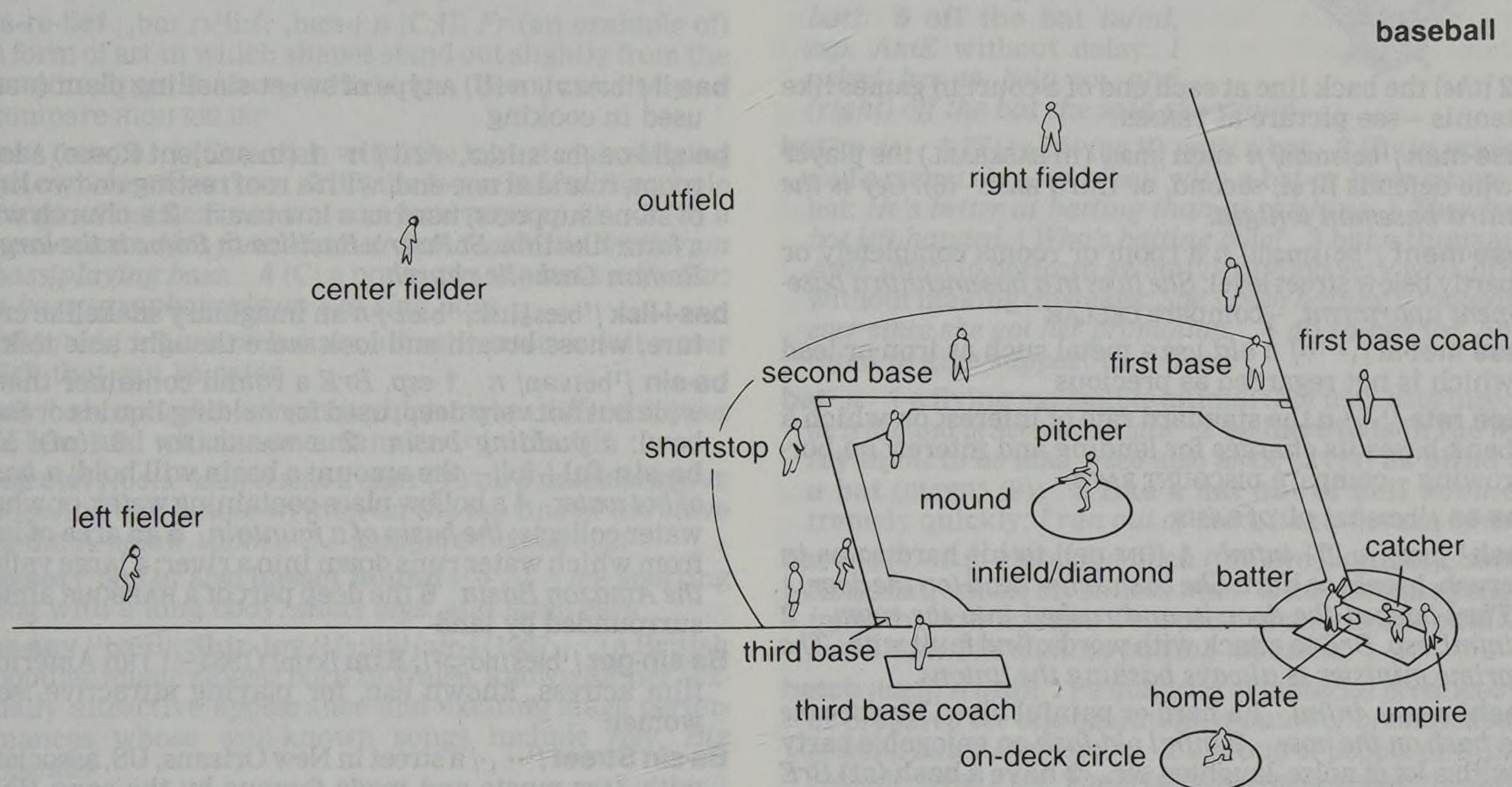
Professional baseball games are organised in the US in the following way:

National League
(12 teams)

American League
(14 teams)

↙ ↘
Eastern division Western division

↙ ↘
Eastern division Western division



plans are made: *After we had reached the top of the mountain, we returned to our **base camp**.* | *Our company's base is in London, but we have branches all over the world.* | *a military/naval base* | *a cruise missile base* **4** [C] something that provides the conditions which are necessary for a particular activity or situation: *The party's main **power base** (=the group that provides support for its political power) is the middle class and the skilled manual workers.* | *the nation's **manufacturing base** (=its factories, systems for producing important materials, etc.)* | *The company is hoping to expand its **customer base** to include large business customers.* | *To finance these plans, the government will have to broaden the **tax base**.* (=to get tax from different kinds of people or activity) **5** [C] *tech* a chemical substance which combines with an acid to form a salt **6** [C] (in the game of BASEBALL) any of the four points which a player must touch in order to make a run –see picture at BASEBALL **7** [C *usu. sing.*] *tech* a line from which to calculate the distances and positions of distant points when making maps **8** [*usu. sing.*] *tech* the number in relation to which a number system or table is built up: *Ordinary numbers use base 10, but most computers work to base 2.* –see also DATA BASE **9** *off base* *AmE infml* completely wrong: *You're way off base if you think I'm going to do that much overtime.*

base² *v* [T+obj+adv/prep; *usu. pass.*] to place or establish; provide with a base or centre: *Where is your company based?* | *It's based overseas/based in Paris.* | *a London-based firm* | *land-based missiles*

base sthg. **on/upon** sthg. *phr v* [T] to form or make (something) using (something else) as the starting point: *Their marketing strategy is based on a study of consumer spending.* | *They based their estimate on the figures for the last three years.* | *The film is based on a novel by D.H. Lawrence.*

base³ *adj esp. lit* (of people, actions, etc.) showing a complete lack of moral principles; dishonourable: *base motives* | *base conduct* –see also BASE METAL –*~ly adv* –*~ness n* [U]

base-ball /'beɪsbɔːl/ *n* [U] a game played with a BAT and ball (the **baseball**) between two teams of nine players each, on a large field which has four bases which a player must touch in order to make a RUN² (10b): *a baseball player/team* –see LITTLE LEAGUE, MAJOR LEAGUES, MINOR LEAGUE, NATIONAL LEAGUE REFEREE (USAGE) and see picture at GLOVE and colour picture on page 884

baseball cap /'bæsbɔːl/ also **baseball hat** *n* a brightly coloured hat which fits close to the head and has a part that sticks out in front to shade the eyes –see picture at HAT

baseball card /'bæsbɔːl/ *n* in the US, a small stiff piece of paper with a picture of a baseball player on the front and information about that player on the back: *a baseball card collector* | *children trading baseball cards*

baseball glove /'bæsbɔːl/ also **baseball mitt**, **mitt**–*n* a thick, large leather hand covering worn to protect the hand when playing baseball

base-board /'beɪsbɔːd/–bɔːrd/ *n* *AmE* for SKIRTING BOARD

base hit /'beɪsɪt/ *n* (in BASEBALL) an action of hitting the ball so that one reaches the first BASE (one of the four points a player must touch to win a point)

Bas-el /'bɑːzəl/ also **Basle**, **Bâle** the second largest city in N Switzerland, on the river Rhine

base-less /'beɪsləs/ *adj* without a good reason: *baseless fears/accusations*

base-line /'beɪsləɪn/ *n* **1** [C *usu. sing.*] a line or level used as a base, e.g. when measuring or making comparisons

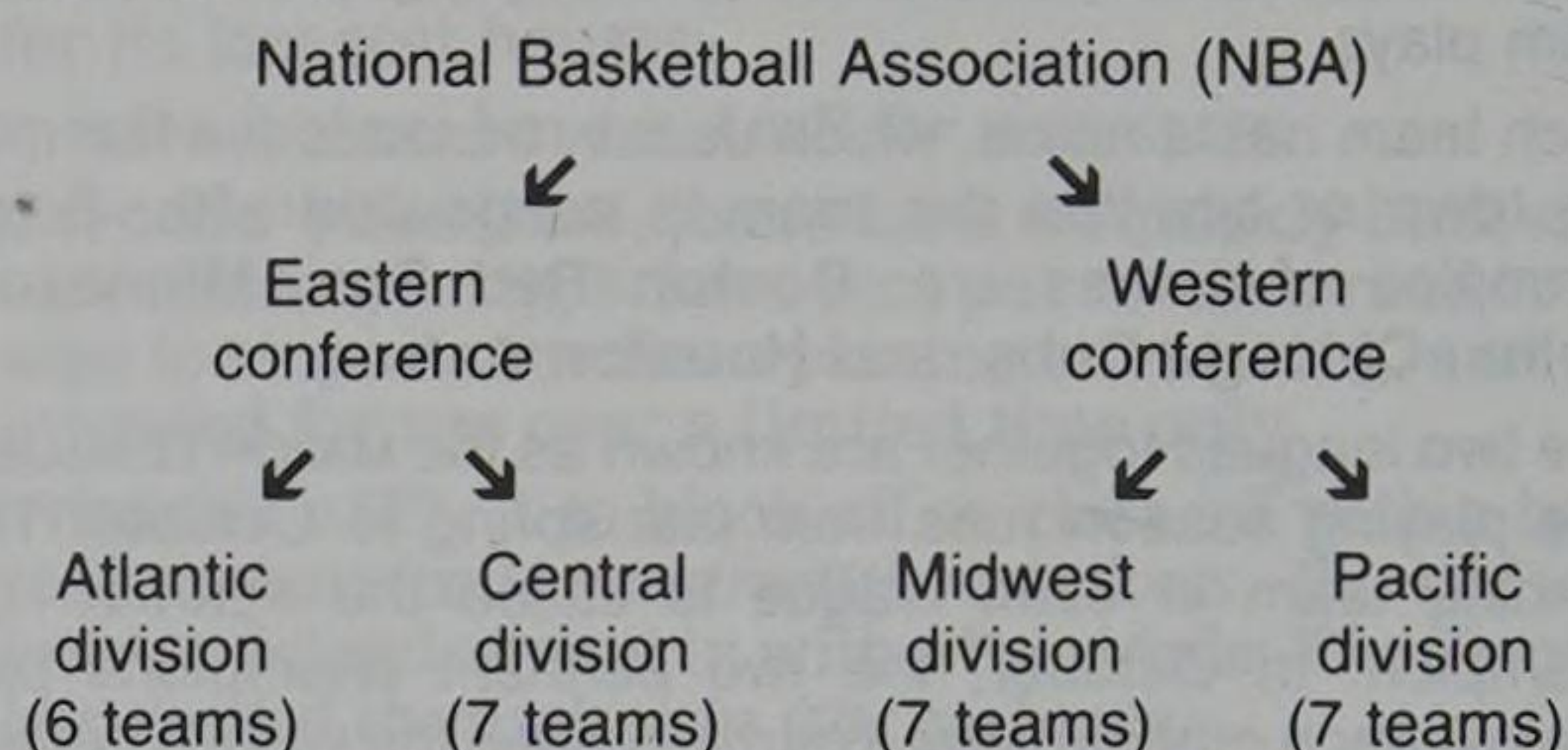
Basketball

Basketball is a very popular sport in the US. Many people, esp. men, support a particular team and watch the games that their team plays.

Each team has a name, which usually includes the name of the town or city that the team is associated with. Some examples of names are: **Boston Celtics**, **Chicago Bulls**, **Denver Nuggets**, and **Los Angeles Lakers**.

The playing season runs from autumn to late spring. Teams within each division play against each other, and against teams from the other divisions within the conferences. The best teams from each conference then play a group of seven games against each other (the **NBA Championship**). The first team to win four of these games is the NBA champion.

Professional basketball games are organised in the US in the following way:



2 [the] the back line at each end of a court in games like tennis —see picture at TENNIS

base-man /'beɪsmən/ *n* -**men** /mən/ (in BASEBALL) the player who defends first, second, or third BASE¹ (6): *Cey is the third baseman tonight.*

base-ment /'beɪsmənt/ *n* a room or rooms completely or partly below street level: *She lives in a basement/in a basement apartment.* —compare CELLAR

base met-al /,ˌbeɪsˈmeɪtəl/ *n* old use a metal such as iron or lead which is not regarded as precious

base rate /ˌbeɪsˈreɪt/ *n* the standard rate of interest on which a bank bases its charges for lending and interest on borrowing —compare DISCOUNT RATE

bas-es /'beɪsɪz/ *pl.* of BASIS

bash¹ /bæʃ/ *v* [T] *infml* **1** [(IN, UP)] to hit hard so as to crush, break, or hurt: *She bashed her head (on the door). | They bashed the door in and rushed into the room.* **2** *infml*, esp. BrE to attack with words; find fault with: *The prime minister is always bashing the unions.*

bash² *n* usu. *infml* **1** a hard or painful blow: *He gave me a bash on the nose.* **2** *infml* old-fash an enjoyable party with a lot of noise, laughter, etc. **3** **have a bash (at)** BrE *infml* to make an attempt (at): *I've never rowed a boat before, but I don't mind having a bash (at it).*

bash-ful /'bæʃfəl/ *adj* uncomfortable in social situations; SHY; SELF-CONSCIOUS: *a bashful smile | bashful teenagers* —~*ly adv* —~*ness n* [U]

Bash Street Kids /ˌbæʃˈstri:t ˈkiːdz/, **The** a group of children from a COMIC, who are difficult to control and who are always playing tricks on their teacher

ba-sic /'beɪsɪk/ *adj* **1** [(to)] more necessary than anything else; on which everything else rests, depends, or is built; FUNDAMENTAL: *the basic principles of mathematics | The industry's basic problem is the lack of demand. | A knowledge of her upbringing is basic to an understanding of her books.* **2** [A] being a starting point, to which more can be added: *my basic salary* (=before any additional payments) | *a course in basic computer skills* **3** [F] *infml* simple and without anything more than is necessary; RUDIMENTARY: *The hotel is a bit basic. | My knowledge of car engines is pretty basic.* —see also BASICS

Basic, **basic** *n* [U] a very commonly used computer language, which was developed to make computers easy for non-specialists to use

ba-sic-ally /'beɪsɪkli/ *adv* with regard to what is most important and basic; in reality; FUNDAMENTALLY: *Basically, he's a nice person, but he doesn't always show it. | He's basically nice. | Basically* (=the simple and most important fact is), *the company is in a mess.*

ba-sics /'beɪsɪks/ *n* [(the) P (of)] the basic parts or principles of a subject, process, etc.: *The basics of education are reading, writing, and simple arithmetic. | We need to get back to (the) basics. | a back-to-basics approach*

basic train-ing /ˌbeɪsɪkˈtreɪnɪŋ/ *n* [U] AmE the period in which a new soldier is taught military rules and how to fight and is given much physical exercise

Bas-ie /'beɪsi/, **Count** (1904–84) an American JAZZ musician who played the piano and led one of the best known big bands of the SWING period

bas-il /'bæzəl/ *n* [U] a type of sweet-smelling plant (HERB) used in cooking

ba-sil-i-ca /bəˈsɪlɪkə, -ˈzɪl-/ *n* **1** (in ancient Rome) a long room, round at one end, with a roof resting on two lines of stone supports, used as a law court **2** a church with a form like this: *St Peter's Basilica in Rome is the largest Roman Catholic church.*

bas-i-lisk /'bæsɪlɪsk, 'bæz-/ *n* an imaginary snakelike creature, whose breath and look were thought able to kill

ba-sin /'beɪsən/ *n* **1** esp. BrE a round container that is wide but not very deep, used for holding liquids or food; bowl: *a pudding basin* **2** a WASHBASIN **3** [(of)] also **ba-sin-ful** /-fʊl/— the amount a basin will hold: *a basin of hot water* **4** a hollow place containing water, or where water collects: *the basin of a fountain* **5** an area of land from which water runs down into a river; a large valley: *the Amazon Basin* **6** the deep part of a HARBOUR almost surrounded by land

Ba-sin-ger /'bæsɪndʒər/, **Kim** /kɪm/ (1954–) an American film actress, known esp. for playing attractive, sexy women

Ba-sin Street /ˌbeɪsɪnˈstri:t/ a street in New Orleans, US, associated with JAZZ music and made famous by the song *Basin Street Blues* which many musicians have recorded

ba-sis /'beɪsɪs/ *n* **bases** /'beɪsɪz/ **1** [(of, for)] the facts, principles, statements, etc. from which something is formed, started, or developed: *What is the basis of your opinion? | There is no scientific basis for these claims. | This series of lectures formed the basis of a new book. | Is it safe to predict the result on the basis of one opinion poll?* **2** the stated way of carrying out an action, process, etc.: *She works for us on a part-time basis. | He gives advice on an individual basis. | The machine has been installed on a trial basis.* **3** the main or most important part of something: *The basis of the drink is orange juice.*

bask /bɑːsk||bæsk/ *v* [I (in)] to sit or lie in pleasant warmth: *to lie on the sand, basking in the sunshine | (fig.) He basked in* (=enjoyed) *his employer's approval.*

Baskervilles see HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES

bas-ket /'bɑːskɪt||'bæ-/ *n* **1** a light container made of narrow pieces of wood, plastic, wire, etc., woven together, and used for carrying or holding things: *a shopping basket | a basket of eggs | a wastepaper basket* —see picture at CONTAINER **2** [(of)] also **basket-ful** /-fʊl/— the amount a basket will hold: *a basket of fruit* **3** an open net fixed to a metal ring high up off the ground, through which players try to throw the ball in the game of basketball **4** a point in this game: *He shot* (=made) *10 baskets.*

bas-ket-ball /'bɑːskɪtbɔːl||'bæs-/ *n* [U] an indoor game between two teams of usu. five players each, in which each team tries to throw a large ball (the **basketball**) through the other team's BASKET (3) —see REFEREE (USAGE) and see colour picture on page 884

basket case /'beɪskɪt ˈkeɪs/ *n* *infml* a person who is unable to do anything useful, usu. as the result of being very tired or frightened

bas-ket-ry /'bɑːskɪtri||'bæs-/ also **bas-ket-work** /'bɑːskɪt wɜːk||'bæskɪtwɜːrk/— *n* [U] (the art of making) baskets or objects woven like baskets

basket weav-ing /'bæskɪt 'weɪvɪŋ/ *n* [U] the activity of making baskets. In the US, people often make jokes about basket weaving, as an activity that takes little skill, knowledge, or work: *What did you study in college, basket weaving?*

Bas-kin-Rob-bins /'bæskɪn 'rɒbɪnz||-'rɒz-/ *tdmk* an American company which makes a well-known type of ICE CREAM

Basle /bɑːl/ see BASEL

Bas-mat-i rice /bæz, mæti 'raɪs/ *n* [U] a type of high quality rice from India and Pakistan, popular with British people esp. when cooking Indian food

basque /bæsk/ *n* a woman's close-fitting undergarment reaching from under the arms to the tops of the legs

Basque /bæsk, bɑːsk||bæsk/ *n* 1 [C] a person from the mountainous REGION that is on the border between France and Spain and is partly in France and partly in Spain. In recent years some Basques in Spain (**Basque Separatists**) have tried to gain political independence for the region. 2 [U] the language of these people

bas-re-lief /'bɑːrɪ'liːf, 'bæs-/ *n* [C;U] *Fr* (an example of) a form of art in which shapes stand out slightly from the surrounding surface, which has been cut away — compare HIGH RELIEF

bass¹ /beɪs/ *n* 1 [C] (a man with) the lowest male singing voice, below BARITONE 2 [U] the lower half of the whole range of musical notes — compare TREBLE³ (2) 3 [C] a BASS GUITAR: *He's formed a new band with his brother on bass/playing bass.* 4 [C] a DOUBLE BASS — **bass** *adj, adv*: *a bass saxophone/drum | to sing bass*

bass² /bæs/ *n* **bass** or **basses** a fresh-water or salt-water fish that can be eaten

Bass /bæs/ *n tdmk* a company which makes different types of beer and which owns many PIRS in the UK

bass clef /'beɪs 'klef/ *n tech* a sign (ʃ) on a musical STAVE showing that a note written on the top line of the stave is the A below MIDDLE C — compare TREBLE CLEF

bas-set /'bæsɪt/ also **basset hound** /'bæsɪt 'haʊnd/ *n* a sporting dog with a long body, short legs, and large ears

Bas-sey /'bæsi/, **Shir-ley** /'ʃɜːli||'ʃɜːr-/ (1937–) a British popular music singer, born in Wales, known for her sexually attractive appearance and exciting stage performances whose well-known songs include *Hey, Big Spender*

bass gui-tar /'beɪs gɪ'tɑːr/ also **bass** — *n* an electric GUITAR (musical instrument with six strings and a long neck) used for playing low musical notes

bas-si-net /'bæsɪ 'net/ *n* a baby's bed or carriage that looks like a basket, often with a covering at one end

bas-sist /'beɪsɪst/ *n* a person who plays the BASS GUITAR or the DOUBLE BASS

bas-soon /bə'suːn/ *n* a large musical instrument of the WOODWIND family, with a double REED (2) — see picture at WOODWIND — **ist** *n*

bast /bæst/ *n* [U] the FIBRE from certain trees, used for making mats, baskets, etc.

bas-tard /'bæstəd, 'bɑː-||'bæstəd/ *n* 1 *often derog* a child of unmarried parents 2 *sl* an unpleasant, disagreeable, or cruel person: *You bastard!* | *She's a real bastard to work for.* 3 *sl* any person, esp. a man, of the stated kind: *That lucky bastard!* | *The poor bastard's been sacked.* 4 *sl* something difficult or troublesome: *This pan is a bastard to clean.* | *a bastard of a traffic jam*

bas-tard-ize also **-ise** *BrE* /'bæstədəɪz, 'bɑː-||'bæstər-/ *v* [T] *fml* to spoil by making false: *a bastardized account of the trial*

bas-tard-y /'bæstədi, 'bɑː-||'bæstər-/ *n* [U] *fml* or *law* the state of being a BASTARD

baste¹ /beɪst/ *v* [I;T] (in sewing) to TACK² (3)

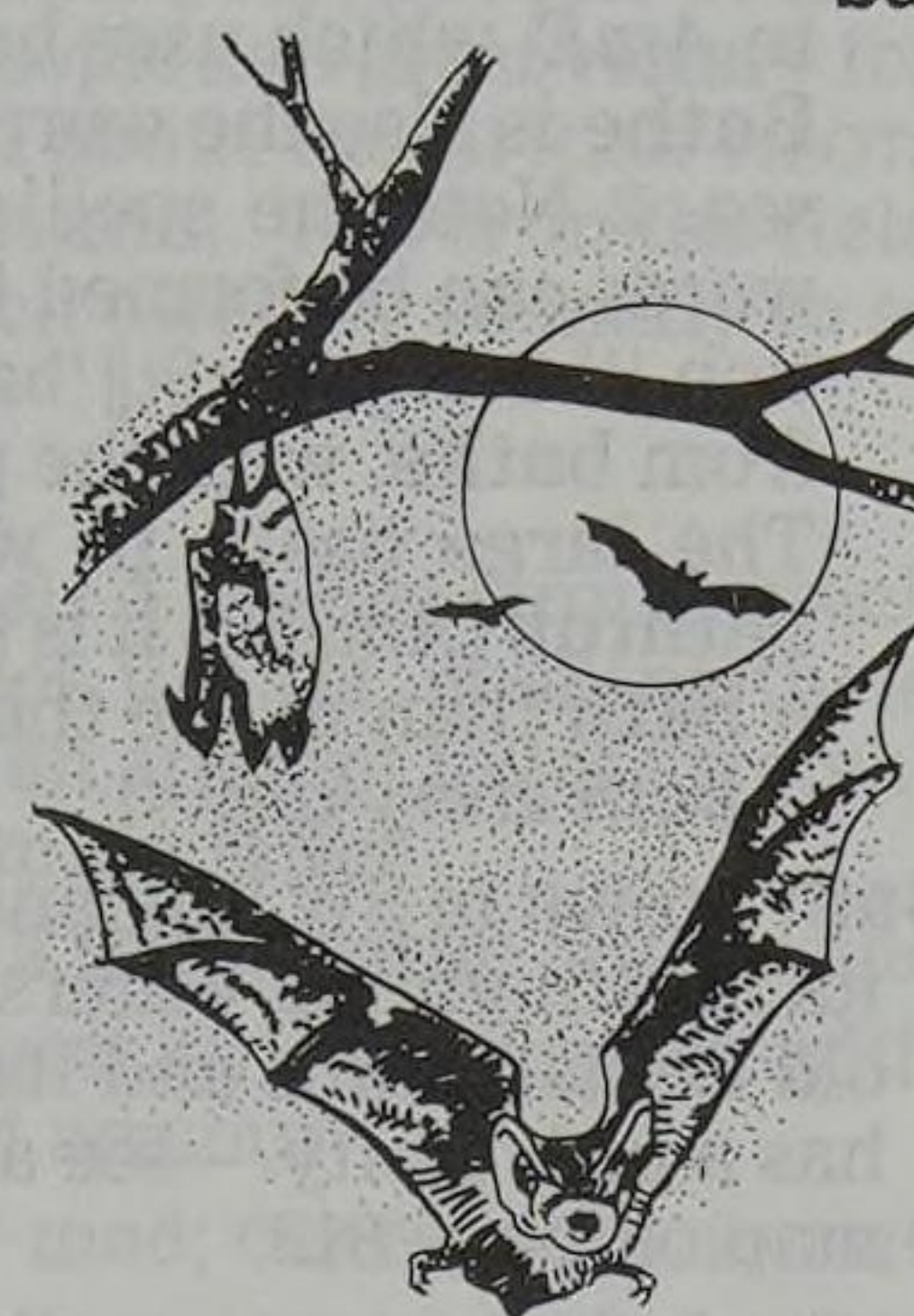
baste² *v* [T] to cover (meat, etc.) with melted fat during cooking

Bas-tille /bæ'stiːl/ [*the*] an old prison in Paris, attacked and destroyed on 14 July 1789 during the French REVOLUTION. This date is now celebrated each year as a French national holiday (**Bastille Day**): *The storming of the Bastille really marked the beginning of the French Revolution.*

bas-ti-na-do /'bæstɪ 'neɪdəʊ, -'nɑː-/ *n* — **does old use** a form of punishment consisting of beating someone with a stick across the bottoms of the feet — **bastinado** *v* [T]

bas-ti-on /'bæstɪən||-tʃən/ *n* 1 a part of the wall of a castle or fort that stands out from the main part 2 [(of)] someone or something that is regarded as strongly defending a particular principle or activity; STRONGHOLD: *a bastion of freedom during the war* | *The club is one of the last bastions of male chauvinism.*

bat¹ /bæt/ *n* 1 a specially shaped wooden stick for hitting the ball in games such as cricket, BASEBALL, and TABLE TENNIS — see picture at CRICKET 2 *BrE* a BATSMAN: *one of the best bats in the game* 3 *at bat* (in BASEBALL) having a turn to hit the ball: *Who's at bat now?* 4 *off one's own bat* *BrE* through one's own efforts; without being told to: *Have you done all this work off your own bat?* 5 *off the bat* *infml, esp. AmE* without delay: *I asked her to help us, and (right) off the bat she said she would.*



bat

bat² *v -tt-* 1 [T] to hit (as if) with a bat 2 [I] (in cricket and BASEBALL) to hit a ball with a bat or have a turn to bat: *He's better at batting than at catching.* | *They both bat left-handed.* | *Who's batting now?* 3 *bat a thousand* *AmE infml* to perform an activity or job very well, often without making mistakes: *She's been batting a thousand ever since she got her promotion.* 4 *go to bat for* *AmE infml* to give support to; defend

bat³ *n* 1 a flying mouselike animal that usu. eats insects or fruit and is active at night 2 *be/have bats in the belfry* *infml* to be mad — see also BATS, BATTY, as blind as a bat (BLIND¹ (9)) 3 *like a bat out of hell* *infml* extremely quickly: *I ran out of there like a bat out of hell.*

bat⁴ *v* [T] 1 to close and open (the eyes) quickly, sometimes as a sexual invitation; WINK 2 *not bat an eye(lid)* *infml* to show no sign of surprise or shock: *She paid the exorbitant bill without batting an eyelid.*

batch /bætʃ/ *n* [(of)] 1 a quantity of material produced in or prepared for one operation: *a batch of bread/loaves* | *to test a batch of medicine* 2 a group of people or things considered as a set: *The prisoners were released in batches of 10.* | *a new batch of students*

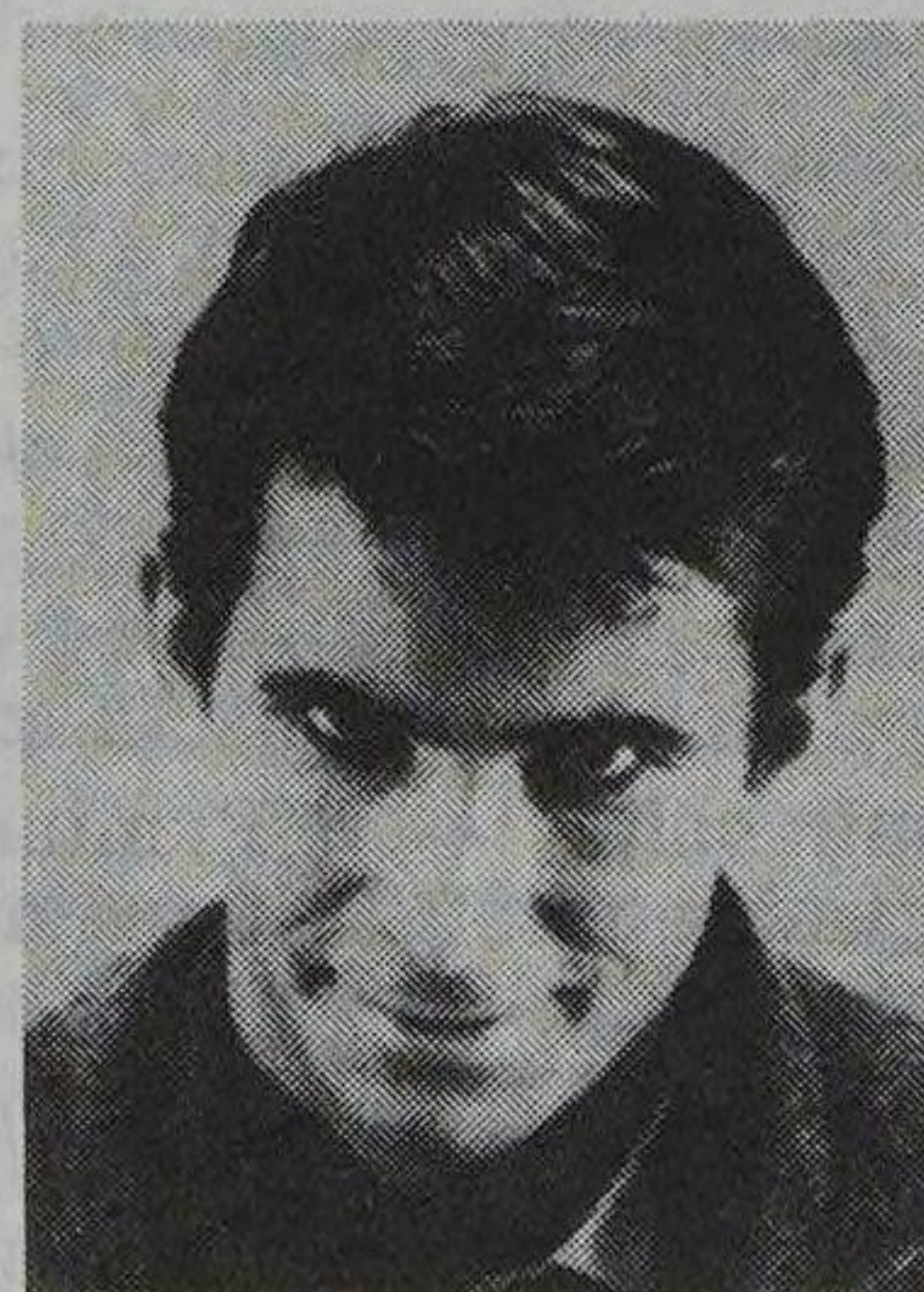
batch pro-ces-sing /'bætʃ 'prɒsɪsɪŋ/ *n* [U] a type of computer processing in which a group of PROGRAMS or jobs are run on a computer at one time without interruption — compare INTERACTIVE (2) — **batch process** *v* [T]: *Each branch of the bank has a computer which can batch process up to four million transactions a day.*

bat-ed /'beɪtɪd/ *adj* with **bated breath** hardly breathing at all because of fear, anxious waiting, or other strong feeling: *We waited for the news with bated breath.*

Bates /beɪts/, **H E** (1905–74) an English writer of NOVELS and short stories, best known for his novel *The Darling Buds of May*

Bates, Norman the main character in the film *Psycho*. He runs the **Bates Motel** and is quite mad and dangerous, although he appears to be very kind and gentle. — see colour picture on page 685

Norman Bates



bath¹ /bɑːθ||bæθ/ *n* **baths** /bɑːðz, bɑːθs||bæðz, bæθs/ 1 also **bathtub** *AmE* — a large basin in which one sits to wash the whole body: *a white enamel bath with brass taps* 2 an act of washing one's whole body at one time: *I have (BrE)/take (AmE) a bath every morning.* | *I'm just running/drawing a bath.* (=pouring the water for a bath) | *a bath towel* — see also SAUNA, TURKISH BATH 3 (a container for holding) a liquid used for a special purpose: *an oil bath* | *an eyebath* | *The fabric is plunged into a bath of black dye.* 4 (in advertisements for houses, etc.) a bathroom: *two bedrooms, kitchen, and bath* — see BATH² (USAGE); see also BATHS

bath² *BrE* || **bathe** *AmE* *v* 1 [T] to give a bath to (a person): *He's bathing the baby.* 2 [I] to have a bath

▷ USAGE 1 In *BrE* **bath** and **bathe** have slightly different meanings. You **bath** to get clean: *He bathes every morning.* | to **bath** a baby. You **bathe** something to make it clean in a medical way: *to bathe a wound/bathe one's eyes.* This difference doesn't exist in *AmE*, which uses **bathe** for both meanings. In *BrE* **Bathe** is also the word for swimming: *to bathe in the sea.* 2 Note the spelling of **bathing**, **bathed**. These words can be formed from **bath** with the pronunciation /'bæθɪŋ, bæθt/ 'bæ-. But they can also be formed from **bathe**, with the pronunciation /'beɪðɪŋ, beɪðd/. The large basin in which you **bath** is a **bath**, or **bathtub** (*AmE*). 3 It is more common to say **have/take a bath** than to use the verb **bath** alone: *I have/take a bath every day.* ◁

Bath a town in SW England famous for many centuries for its health-giving waters, and visited by tourists for its old Roman baths and its Georgian buildings. Bath also has a university. —see also WIFE OF BATH and see colour map on page 818

bath chair /'bæθtʃeə/ *n* (sometimes *cap. B*) a wheeled chair for an old, sick person to be pushed in, with a covering for the top and sometimes for the sides —compare WHEELCHAIR

bathe¹ /beɪð/ *v* 1 [I] *esp. BrE* to swim in the sea, a river, etc. for pleasure 2 [I] *AmE* to have a bath 3 [T] to cover with or place in water or other liquid, usu. for medical reasons: *Bathe your ankle twice a day.* 4 [T] *lit* to flow along the edge of: *The Mediterranean Sea bathes the sunny shores of Italy.* 5 [T (in, with) often *pass.*] to spread over with or as if with light, water, etc.; SUFFUSE: *The fields were bathed in sunlight.* | *The child's eyes were bathed with/in tears.* —see BATH² (USAGE) —**bather** *n*

bathe² *n* [S] *BrE* an act of bathing, esp. in the sea; a swim: *Let's go for a bathe.*

bathing /'beɪðɪŋ/ *n* [U] *BrE* the act of going into water to bathe or swim: *The bathing is safe here.* | *a bathing accident* | *topless bathing*

bathing beauty /'bæθɪŋ bi:əti/ *n* *old-fash* an attractive young woman in a bathing suit, esp. one taking part in a BEAUTY CONTEST

bathing cap /'bæθɪŋ kæp/ *n* a cap worn in a swimming pool, mostly by women, to keep the hair dry

bathing machine /'bæθɪŋ ma:ʃɪn/ *n* a wooden hut on wheels pulled down to the sea to allow bathers to dress and undress, used in Britain in the 18th and 19th centuries

bathing suit /'bæθɪŋ su:t/ also **bathing cos-tume** /'bæθɪŋ kɒs.tʃu:m/ *BrE* — *n* becoming rare a SWIMSUIT

bath mat /'bæθ mæt/ *n* a washable mat used in a bathroom to protect the floor from water

Bath Ol-i-ver /'bæθ ɒlɪvə/ *n* a type of British dry, unsweetened BISCUIT, usu. eaten with cheese

ba-thos /'beɪθɒs/ -θɔ:s/ *n* [U] a sudden change from very beautiful or noble ideas, words, etc., to very ordinary or foolish ones

bath-robe /'bæθrəʊb/ *n* 1 a garment like a loose coat worn before and after having a bath, etc. 2 *AmE* for DRESSING GOWN

bath-room /'bæθrʊm, -ru:m/ *n* 1 a room containing a bath and usu. a TOILET 2 *AmE* a TOILET: *Is there a bathroom in this restaurant?* —see TOILET (USAGE)

bathroom tis-sue /'bæθrʊm tɪs.ju:/ *n* [U] *fml* TOILET PAPER

baths /bæðz, bæθs/ *n* **baths** [C+*sing./pl. v*] *esp. BrE* a public building with an indoor swimming pool and/or bathrooms: *the public baths*

bath salts /'bæθ sɔ:ltz/ *n* [P] mineral salts that are added to bath water to soften it and make it smell nice

bath sheet /'bæθ ſi:t/ *n* a very large TOWEL

bath-tub /'bæθtʌb/ *n* also **tub** *infml* — *n* *esp. AmE* a BATH¹ (1) —see BATH² (USAGE)

bath-y-scaph /'bæθɪskæf/ *n* a ship that can be driven deep under the sea, used in scientific tests

bath-y-sphere /'bæθɪsfɪə/ *n* a strongly built container used for going deep into the sea for the purpose of watching plant life, animal life, etc.

ba-tik /bə'tɪk, 'bætɪk/ *n* [U] (cloth decorated by) an Indonesian method of printing coloured patterns on cloth by

putting WAX on the part that is not to be coloured

BAT In-dus-tries /'bɪ: eɪ ti: 'ɪndəstrɪz/ a very large British company dealing in tobacco, paper, and other things

Ba-tis-ta /bə'tɪstə/, **Ful-gen-ci-o** /fʊl'henθiəʊ/ (1901–73)

the leader of Cuba who ruled until he was forced to leave the country in 1959, after the successful military opposition led by Fidel Castro. Many Cuban REFUGEES in the US still support the principles and failed government of Batista.

bat-man /'bætmən/ *n* -men /mən/ an officer's personal servant in the British armed forces

Bat-man /'bætmən/ a character found in COMICS, on television, and in films, who fights criminals and protects ordinary people, usu. helped by his partner, Robin, who is sometimes called the **Boy Wonder**. He wears a large black CLOAK and a black MASK, and has a special car called the **Batmobile** that can travel very fast and has many special pieces of equipment fitted to it. People sometimes use the phrase "Good thinking, Batman", which is often used by Robin when Batman has thought of a good idea.

bat-on /'bætn/ *n* 1 a short thin stick used by a CONDUCTOR (=the leader of a group of musicians) to show the beat of the music 2 a short thick stick used as a weapon by a policeman; TRUNCHEON: *riot police with batons and tear gas* | *a baton charge* —see picture at CLUB 3 a short stick showing that the person who carries it has some special office or rank: *a General's baton* 4 a stick passed by one member of a team of runners to the next runner —see picture at STICK 5 a light metal tube with decorated ends which is spun, thrown into the air and caught by a MAJORETTE

baton charge /'bætn tʃɑ:ʒ/ *n* a charge by police carrying batons, made in order to break up a crowd or a violent DEMONSTRATION (2)

Bat-on Rouge /'bætn 'ru:ʒ/ the capital of the state of Louisiana in the US —see colour map on pages 1374-5

bats /bæts/ *adj* [F] *infml, esp. BrE* slightly mad; BATTY

bats-man /'bætsmən/ *n* -men /mən/ a person who BATS² (2) in cricket —see picture at CRICKET, and compare BATTER³

bat-tal-ion /bə'tæljən/ *n* [C+*sing./pl. v*] a group of usu. 500–1000 soldiers made up of four or more companies (COMPANY (6a)): *The second battalion is/are going abroad.*

bat-ten¹ /'bætn/ *n* a long board used for fastening other pieces of wood

batten² *v*

batten sthg. ↔ **down** *phr v* [T] (on ships) to fasten with boards of wood: *There's a storm coming, so let's batten down the hatches.* (=fasten the entrances to the lower parts of the ship)

batten on/upon sbdy. *phr v* [T *pass. rare*] *esp. lit* to live well by using the work or generosity of (someone) for one's own advantage; EXPLOIT

Bat-ten-burg /'bætnbɜ:ɡ/ *n* [U] a cake eaten in Britain, which is square in shape and divided into four parts, two pink and two yellow, and covered with MARZIPAN

bat-ter¹ /'bætə/ *v* 1 [T] to damage, break, or cause to lose shape by continual hard use or beating: *The ship was battered against the rocks/battered to pieces by the storm.* | *an increase in the incidence of baby battering* (=violence by parents against small children) | *a battered old car/hat* | (fig.) *to restore one's battered pride* 2 [I+*adv/prep*] to beat hard and repeatedly: *The police battered at/on the door.* | *waves battering against the shore*

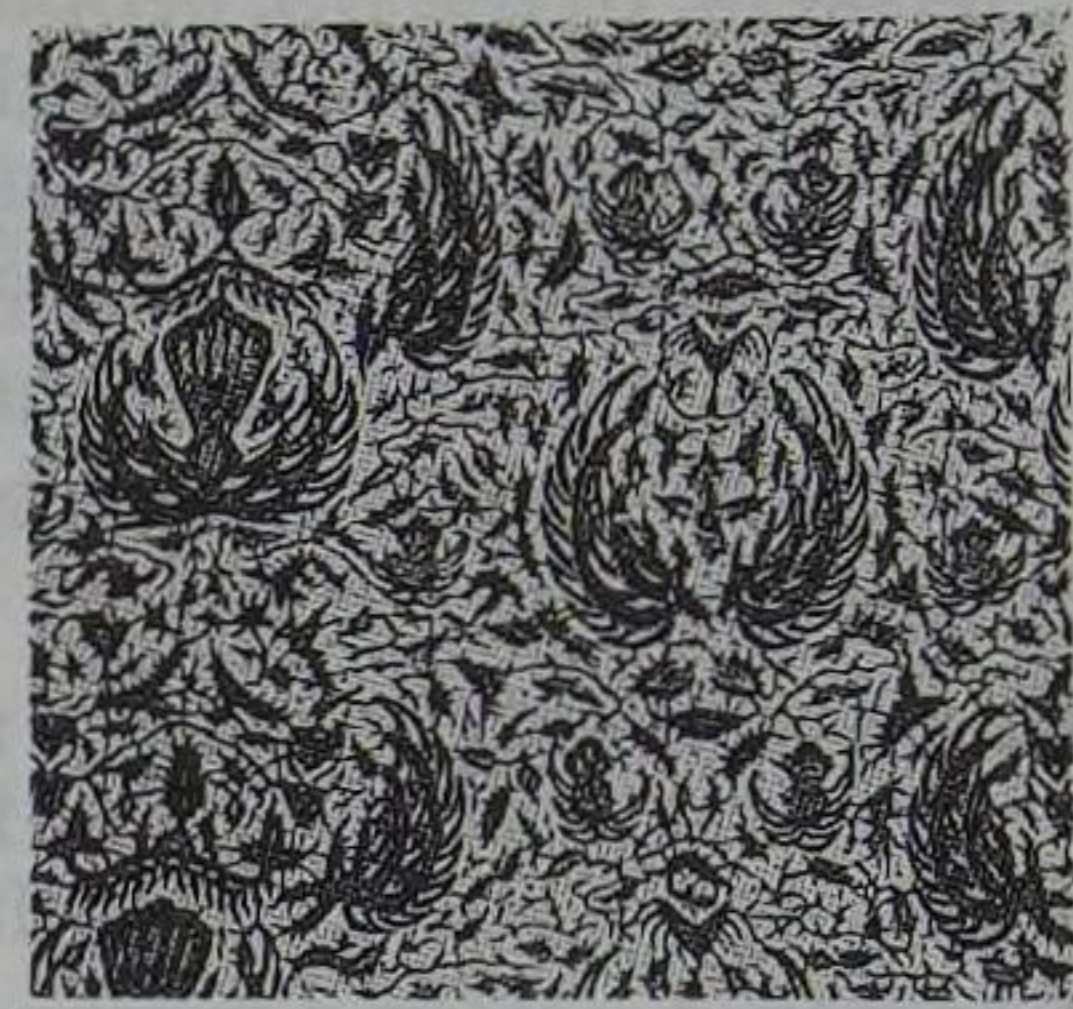
batter² *n* [U] a mixture of flour, eggs, and milk, beaten together and used in cooking: *pancake batter*

batter³ *n* a person who BATS² (2), esp. in BASEBALL —compare BATSMAN and see picture at BASEBALL

bat-tered /'bætəd/ *adj* (of a person) having been physically harmed, usu. by a member of his or her family: *a battered baby* | *a shelter for battered women*

battered wife /'bætəd wɪf/ *n* a woman who has been physically harmed by her husband

batik





bat-ter-ing ram /'... ɹ/ also **ram**— *n* a large heavy log with an iron end, used formerly in war for breaking through the doors and walls of castles and towns

Bat-ter-sea /'bætəsi||-tər-/ an area and former BOROUGH of SW London

Battersea Dogs' Home /,... '... / a place in Battersea in S London where dogs are kept when they have been thrown out by or taken away from their owners

Battersea Pow-er Sta-tion /,... '... / a now disused power station in Battersea, SW London, which because of its four large chimneys looks like a table turned upside down

bat-tery /'bætəri/ *n* **1** [C] an apparatus for producing electricity, consisting of a group of connected electric CELLS: *The car won't start because the battery has gone flat.* (=has lost all its power) | *The radio takes four small batteries.* —see picture at ENGINE, and see also DRY BATTERY **2** [C] a number of big guns together with the men who make them work; set of guns fixed in a warship or fort **3** [C] *BrE* a line of small boxes in which hens are kept and specially treated so that they will lay eggs frequently: *battery hens* —compare FREE-RANGE **4** [C (of)] a group or set of things like tools, kitchen containers, knives, etc., that are kept together: *a battery of cooking utensils* **5** [C (of)] a set or number of things of the same kind coming together, esp. things that are difficult or unpleasant to deal with; ARRAY: *He faced a whole battery of newspaper cameras.* | *a battery of tests* | (fig.) *They've hired a battery of lawyers and experts to prove their case.* **6** [U] *law* the criminal offence of hitting another person —see also ASSAULT AND BATTERY

battery farm /'... ɹ/ *n* a farm on which hens are kept in batteries (BATTERY (3))

Battery Park /'... ɹ/ a park at the extreme SW end of Manhattan, from where ferries (FERRY¹) go to the Statue of Liberty

batting av-e-rage /'... ɹ... / *n* **1** (in BASEBALL) a set of numbers which tells how often a player has hit the ball in comparison to how many times he has had a chance to hit it: *His batting average is 347.* **2** (in CRICKET) a number which shows how many RUNS a player has scored during a given period as an AVERAGE **3** a record of performance: *His new car doesn't have much of a batting average, it's broken down twice in the last week.*

bat-tle¹ /'bætl/ *n* **1** a fight between enemy forces, esp. forming part of a larger struggle: *The Battle of Waterloo* | *It was one of the most crucial battles in the whole war.* | *a naval battle* | *He was killed in battle.* —see also PITCHED BATTLE; compare WAR **2** any struggle between opposing or competing groups, or against an undesirable situation: *a battle for power between the President's closest advisers* | *The two companies are engaged in a legal battle over the ownership of the land.* | *the battle against disease and poverty* | *The negotiations were a real battle of wits between the two sides.* (=a struggle to see who was the most clever) | *Today's football game will be a battle of the giants between the two strongest teams in the country.* —see also half the battle (HALF (2))

battle² *v* [I] **1** to take part in a struggle, esp. when trying to gain something or get somewhere: [+adv/prep] *The mountaineers battled on in spite of the bad weather conditions.* | *women battling for equal rights* | *After a sleepless night battling with her conscience, she decided to admit the truth.* [+to-v] *The firemen battled to control the flames.* | *battling to keep control of his company* **2** esp. *lit* to take part in a battle; fight: *The two armies battled (with each other) for half an hour.*

bat-tle-axe *BrE* || -ax *AmE* /'bætl-æks/ *n* **1** a heavy AXE formerly used as a weapon **2** *infml* a fierce argumentative woman: *My boss is a real old battleaxe.*

battle cruis-er /'... ɹ... / *n* a large fast warship with heavy guns, but with lighter armour than a BATTLESHIP

battle cry /'... ɹ... / *n* a WAR CRY

battle fa-tigue /'... ɹ... / *n* also **combat fatigue** [U] a type of mental illness in which a person suffers from severe anxiety and DEPRESSION, caused by the shock of being involved in a battle

bat-tle-field /'bætlfi:ld/ also **bat-tle-ground** /-graund/— *n* a place at which a battle is or has been fought: (fig.) *a political battlefield* (=area of disagreement)

bat-tle-ments /'bætlmənts/ *n* [P] a low wall round the flat

roof of a castle or fort, with spaces to shoot through — see picture at CASTLE

Battle of Brit-ain /,... ɹ... / [*the*] the British name given to the fighting between British and German aircraft during the summer and autumn of 1940, when German aircraft repeatedly bombed British cities, and British aircraft tried to fight them off. The bombing stopped late in 1940, and this was seen by British people as a great victory for them. Winston Churchill said about the British PILOTS who fought in the Battle of Britain, "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few."

Battle of the Boyne see BOYNE

Battle of the Bulge /,... ɹ... / [*the*] **1** the last strong attack by German forces on the Allies in 1944, pushing them back into Belgium **2** *humor* an attempt to lose weight or prevent oneself from becoming fatter

battle roy-al /,... ɹ... / *n fml or lit* a fierce battle or struggle

bat-tle-ship /'bætlʃɪp/ *n* the largest kind of warship, with the biggest guns and heaviest armour

bat-ty /'bæti/ *adj infml* slightly mad; CRAZY or ECCENTRIC —**battiness** *n* [U]

bau-ble /'bɔ:bəl/ *n often derog* **1** a cheap jewel **2** *BrE* a decoration that looks like a small ball and is used to decorate a Christmas tree

Bau-haus /'bauhaus/ a school in Germany in the 1920s which taught ARCHITECTURE. The school influenced many modern ARCHITECTS with its use of steel and glass and its belief that the use of a building should determine its form.

baud /bɔ:d/ *n* **baud tech** a measure of the speed at which information is sent to or from a computer, e.g. through a telephone line. One baud equals one BIT of information per second

baulk /bɔ:k, bɔ:lk/ *n, v BrE for BALK*^{1,2}

Baum /bɔ:ɪm/, **L Frank** (1856–1919) an American writer known for his children's book *The Wizard of Oz*

baux-ite /'bɔ:ksaɪt/ *n* [U] the ORE from which ALUMINIUM is made

Ba-va-ri-a /bə'veəriə/ a PROVINCE in SE Germany, whose German name is **Bayern**; capital Munich —**rian** *n, adj*

bawd /bɔ:d/ *n old use or lit* a woman who keeps a house of PROSTITUTES²

bawd-y /'bɔ:di/ *adj* about sex in a rude funny way: *bawdy jokes* —**ily** *adv* —**iness** *n* [U]

bawl /bɔ:l/ *v* **1** [I;T (OUT)] to shout in a loud rough voice: *He bawled at me/bawled for his dinner.* | *The captain bawled (out) an order.* **2** [I] to cry noisily: *I couldn't sleep because the baby wouldn't stop bawling.*

bawl sbdy. ↔ **out** *phr v* [T] *AmE infml* to speak to angrily; REPRIMAND: *She bawled me out for being late.*

bay¹ /beɪ/ *n (often cap. as part of a name)* a wide opening along a coast; part of the sea or of a large lake enclosed in a curve of the land: *The village overlooks a quiet little bay.* | *Botany Bay in Australia* | *the Bay of Biscay*

bay² also **bay tree** /'... ɹ... /— *n* a tree like the LAUREL, whose sweet-smelling leaves can be used in cooking: *Add a bay leaf to the soup.*

bay³ *n* **1** any of the parts into which a large room or building is divided down the sides by walls, shelves, etc.: *In the library, the books on history are all kept in one bay.* | *There's a loading bay at the back of the warehouse.* | *a parking bay in a multi-storey car park* **2** a side track at a railway station —see also BAY WINDOW, SICKBAY

bay⁴ *v* [I] **1** to make repeatedly the long deep cry of a HOUND (=a large hunting dog) **2** **bay** (*BrE*)/**bark** (*AmE*) (at) the moon to make a great effort to do something worthless

bay⁵ *n* [S] **1** the long deep cry of a HOUND **2** **hold/keep at bay** to keep (an enemy or something unwanted) some distance away: *He kept me at bay with a long knife.* | (fig.) *We managed to hold our creditors at bay by borrowing some more money from the bank.*

bay⁶ *n, adj* (a horse whose colour is) reddish brown

Bay-ern Mu-nich /,baɪən 'mjʊ:nɪk||,baɪərən-/ a German football team

Bay-eux Tap-es-try /,baɪɜ: 'tæpɪstri||baɪ,uz-/ [*the*] an 11th or 12th century TAPESTRY in Bayeux, N France, which shows pictures that tell the story of the Norman Conquest of England

Bay-kal, Baikal /baɪkæl/ a very large lake in Siberia, the 6th largest freshwater lake in the world

Bay of Bis-cay /,beɪ əv 'bɪskeɪ/ [*the*] a BAY between the W coast of France and the N coast of Spain, well-known for its very bad weather

Bay of Pigs /, . ' / [*the*] a BAY on the S coast of Cuba. In 1961 a group of Cuban EXILES, supported by the US, landed in the Bay of Pigs, in an attempt to end the rule of Fidel Castro. The invasion failed and all of the invading (INVADE) army were either taken prisoner or killed. This event is usu. called the **Bay of Pigs Invasion**. — see also CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS

bay-o-net¹ /'beɪənɪt, -net/ *n* a long knife fixed to the end of a soldier's gun (RIFLE)

bayonet² *v* [T] to drive a bayonet into (a person)

bay-ou /'baɪuː||'baɪəv/ *n* (esp. in the SE US) a body of water with a slow current and many water plants

Bay-reuth /baɪ'rɔɪt/ a city in Bavaria, Germany, known for its important Wagner music FESTIVALS

bay win-dow /, . ' / *n* a window built outwards from the wall, often three-sided, and built up from the ground — compare BOW WINDOW

ba-zaar /bə'zɑːr/ *n* **1** (in English-speaking countries) a sale to collect money for some good purpose: *a church/hospital bazaar* **2** (in Eastern countries) a marketplace or a group of shops

ba-zoo-ka /bə'zʊkə/ *n* a long light gun that rests on the shoulder when fired and is used esp. against TANKS (**2**)

BBC /,bɪː bɪː 'sɪz-/ *n* [*the*] British Broadcasting Corporation; the British radio and television broadcasting company that is paid for by the state, not by advertisers: *She works for the BBC.* | *It's on BBC tonight.* —compare ITV

BBC 1 /,bɪː bɪː 'sɪː wən/ the first of the two BBC television channels (CHANNEL¹ (**4**)), which broadcasts news and general entertainment programmes: *Did you see that film on BBC 1 last night?* —compare BBC 2, ITV, CHANNEL 4

BBC 2 /,bɪː bɪː 'sɪː tuː/ the second of the two BBC television channels (CHANNEL¹ (**4**)), which broadcasts esp. programmes concerning the arts and educational subjects: *a new documentary series on BBC 2* —compare BBC 1, ITV, CHANNEL 4

BBC Eng-lish /, . . ' / *n* [U] a standard form of English pronunciation, aimed at by many speakers of the language in Britain and in other parts of the world, used not only within the BBC but also in teaching English in many parts of the world —see also OXFORD ENGLISH, RECEIVED PRONUNCIATION

BBC World Service /, . . , . ' / also **World Service** [*the*] a division of the BBC which broadcasts radio programmes, esp. news, to many different parts of the world

BB gun /'bɪː bɪː ɡʌn/ *n* AmE an air-powered RIFLE which shoots small round metal balls (BBs). In the US, particularly in country areas, young boys are often given BB guns so that they can learn how to shoot. BB guns can kill small animals such as birds and mice, and people are sometimes hurt by them in accidents. BB guns are rarely used by adults.

bbq *n* AmE abbrev. for BARBECUE

BC¹ /,bɪː 'sɪː/ abbrev. for: before (the birth of) Christ: *Rome was founded in 753 BC.* —compare AD, BCE, CE

▷ USAGE Some people think that the abbreviations BC and AD have unnecessary religious associations and they have begun to use BCE instead of BC, and CE instead of AD. All of these abbreviations are used with numbers which indicate a number of years either before or after the birth of Jesus Christ.◁

BC² abbrev. for BRITISH COLUMBIA

BCCI /,bɪː sɪː sɪː 'aɪ/ Bank of Credit and Commerce International; an international bank which failed in 1991, causing a financial SCANDAL and also causing many savers and small businesses in many countries to lose the money that they had invested (INVEST) with the bank

BCE /,bɪː sɪː 'iː/ abbrev. for before common era —see BC (USAGE)

be¹ /biː strong bɪː/ [see TABLE 6] *v* [auxiliary verb] **1** [+*v-ing*] (used to form the progressive tenses of verbs): *Don't disturb me while I'm working.* | *She was reading when he called.* | *They've been asking a lot of*

questions. | *When will you be having dinner?* (=when is it arranged?) | *He's always causing trouble.* **2** [+*v-ed*] *a* (used to form the passive voice of verbs): *Smoking is not permitted.* | *I was told about it yesterday.* | *The house is being painted.* | *She has been invited to the party.* | *The flames could be seen several miles away.* | *The police should have been informed about this.* *b* *old use* (used instead of *have* to form the perfect tenses of some verbs): *Christ is risen from the dead.* (=has risen) **3** [+*to-v*] *usu. fml a* (expresses an order or rule): *All prisoners are to be (=must be) in bed by 10 o'clock.* | *Visitors are to leave when the bell rings.* | *You are not to smoke here.* *b* (shows arrangements for the future): *We are to be married in June.* | *We were to have gone away last week, but I was ill.* *c* (shows what should happen): *Whatever am I to tell her (=what should/can I tell her) when she finds out?* | *He is more to be (=should be more) pitied than blamed.* *d* (shows what cannot or could not happen): *We looked and looked, but the ring was nowhere to be found.* *e* (shows what had to happen or did happen): *This discovery was to have a major effect on the treatment of heart disease.* *f* (used in conditional sentences that show a situation that does not or could not exist): *If I were to do that/Were I to do that, what would you say?* —see also BEEN

be² *v* **1** [L] (shows that someone or something is the same as the subject): [+*n*] *January is the first month of the year.* | *It's me.* | *Lack of money is our biggest problem.* | *If I were you, I shouldn't do it.* [+*to-v/v-ing*] *The difficulty is to know what to do/knowing what to do.* [+*(that)*] *The fact is (that) you know too much.* | *The biggest problem was that we didn't have enough time.* **2** [I+*adv/prep*] (shows position or time): *Where is he?* | *He's upstairs/at home/in the office.* | *How long has she been here?* | *The book is on the table.* | *The concert was last night.* | *The party is (=will happen) on Saturday.* **3** [L] *a* (shows that someone or something belongs to a group or has a quality): *She's a doctor.* | *She wants to be (=become) a doctor when she leaves school.* | *Snow is white.* | *Horses are animals.* | *These shoes are mine.* | *We were hungry.* | *I'm not ready.* | *Be careful!* | *It's hot today.* | *It's as if we'd never even started.* | *A knife is for cutting with.* (=that is its purpose) *b* (in short phrases or questions): *It's cold, isn't it?* | *He isn't leaving, is he?* | *"That's not your coat!" "Yes it is!"* **4** [L] (used after *there* to show that something exists): *There's a hole in your trousers.* —see THERE (USAGE) **5 be that as it may** even if that is true; in spite of that —see also BEEN

be³ *v* [I] **1** to exist: *Whatever is, is right.* **2** (in the INFINITIVE) to remain untroubled: *If the baby's sleeping, let her be.* —see also BEEN **3 to be or not to be, that is the question** *quote* a phrase from Shakespeare's play *Hamlet*, probably the most famous line from all his plays. People sometimes use parts of the phrase humorously, when a decision must be made.

beach¹ /bɪtʃ/ *n* **1** a shore of the sea or a lake covered by sand or small stones: *They went down to the beach for a swim.* | *There are several beautiful sandy beaches along that stretch of the coast.* —see SHORE (USAGE) and see extra information on page 632 **2 we shall fight on the beaches** *quote* part of a famous speech made by Winston Churchill during the Second World War

beach² *v* [T] to run or drive (a boat) onto the shore: *to beach our canoe* — ~ *ed adj*: *a beached whale*

beach ball /' . / *n* a large light ball, filled with air, for use at the beach

Beach Boys /' . /, **The** an American popular music group with an easily recognizable smooth style of singing together, which was formed in 1961 and whose songs are still popular. Many of their songs were about young people in California enjoying themselves by surfing (SURF) and swimming in the sea, having parties, and driving fast cars.

beach bug-gy /' . , . / also **dune buggy**— *n* a motor vehicle with very large tyres for use on sand beaches

beach-chair /'bɪtʃ-tʃeə/ *n* AmE for DECKCHAIR

beach-comb-er /'bɪtʃ,kəʊmər/ *n* **1** a person who searches along a beach for useful or saleable things **2** a long rolling wave coming in from the ocean

Beachcomber the name used by John Cameron Morton (1893–1979) for his regular humorous writing in the British newspaper the Daily Express between 1924 and 1975

beach-head /'bɪtʃhed/ *n* an area on the shore of an enemy's

land that has been taken by force and on which an army may be landed —compare **BRIDGEHEAD**

beach-wear /'bɪtʃweə/ *n* [U] clothing for the beach

Beach-y Head /,bɪtʃi 'hed/ *n* an area of land with very high cliffs on the coast of SE England

beacon /'bi:kən/ *n* **1** a guiding or warning fire on a hill, tower, or pole **2** a tall object or a light on or near the shore, acting as a guide or warning to sailors **3** (in Britain) a **BELISHA BEACON** **4** a **RADIO BEACON** **5** a flashing light to warn airmen of heights or to guide them at an airport **6** *esp. lit* someone or something that provides guidance or sets a high standard to be followed

bead /bi:d/ *n* **1** a small ball of glass or other material with a hole through it for threading on string or wire: *She was wearing a string of green beads round her neck.* | *The sheikh sat there fingering his worry beads.* (=a string of beads which are supposed to calm one when played with) | *a bead curtain* | (fig.) *beads of sweat on his face* **2** **draw a bead (on)** to take aim (at) when shooting **3** **tell/say one's beads** *lit or old use* to say one's prayers with a **ROSARY** — *~ed adj*: *a beaded headdress* | *a face beaded with sweat*

bead-ing /'bi:diŋ/ *n* [C;U] a long narrow patterned piece of wood used for decorating walls, furniture, etc.

beadle /'bi:dl/ *n* **1** an officer who in former times helped a priest in keeping order in church, in giving money to the poor, etc. **2** (in some British universities) a uniformed officer who may lead university processions, help to keep order, etc.

Beadle, Jer-e-my /'dʒerəmi/ (1948–) an English television presenter known *esp.* for his very cheerful manner and his programmes in which people are put into amusing or embarrassing situations

bead-y /'bi:di/ *adj* *often humor* (esp. of an eye) small, round, and shining, like a bead: **Keep your beady eyes off my cigarettes.** (=stop looking at them as if you want to steal them)

beagle /'bi:gəl/ *n* a smooth-haired dog (a kind of **HOUND**) with short legs and large ears, sometimes used in the hunting of **HARES**

Beagle, HMS the ship on which Charles Darwin travelled to South America to study the plants and animals there

bea-gling /'bi:gliŋ/ *n* [U] (in Britain) the sport of hunting **HARES** with beagles

beak¹ /bɪk/ *n* **1** the hard horny mouth of a bird, a **TURTLE**, etc. —see picture at **BIRD** **2** anything pointed and sticking out like this, such as **a** a person's hooked nose **b** the pointed front end of an ancient warship

beak² *n BrE old-fash sl* **1** a judge in a lower court of law; **MAGISTRATE** **2** a schoolmaster

beaker /'bi:kə/ *n* **1** *esp. BrE* a drinking cup with a wide mouth and usu. no handle **2** a small glass cup shaped for pouring, as used in a chemical **LABORATORY** —see picture at **LABORATORY** **3** [(of)] also **bea-ker-ful** /-fʊl/ — the amount that a beaker will hold: *a beaker of coffee*

be-all and end-all /,bi:əl ənd əl/ *n* [the+S (of)] the most important thing; the whole purpose of something

beam¹ /bi:m/ *n* **1** a large long heavy piece of wood, esp. used as part of the structure of a building **2** the bar from which scales for weighing hang —see also **broad in the beam** (**BROAD**¹ (9))

beam² *n* **1** a line of light shining out from some bright object: *the bright beam of the car's headlights* | *a moon-beam* | *a laser beam* **2** radio waves sent out along a narrow path in one direction only, often to guide aircraft **3** a bright look or smile: *"How nice to see you!" she said, with a beam of welcome.* **4** *BrE off beam* *infml* incorrect; mistaken: *We tried to guess the price, but we were way off beam.* (=a long way from the true figure)

beam³ *v* **1** [I] (of the sun or other shining objects) to send out light (and heat) **2** [I;T] to smile brightly and happily: *He beamed (a cheerful welcome) as he opened the door.* **3** [T+obj+adv/prep] to send out (radio or television signals) in a certain direction, using special equipment: *The news was beamed to East Africa by satellite.* **4** **Beam me up, Scotty** a phrase used in the television **SCIENCE FICTION** SERIES *Star Trek*, as a command to make someone disappear and then reappear in the spacecraft. The phrase is often used humorously now when someone wants to escape quickly from a difficult or embarrassing situation. —see also **STAR TREK**

beam-ends /,bi:əndz/ *n* *BrE on one's beam-ends* *sl* (of a person or a business) almost without any money left: *We're on our beam-ends!*

bean /bi:n/ *n* **1** a seed of any of various upright climbing plants, esp. one that can be used as food. In Britain and the US, beans are often eaten by people who are **VEGETARIANS** (=eat no meat) or people interested in eating healthy foods. —see also **BAKED BEANS** **2** a plant that produces beans **3** a **POD** containing beans, which grows on a bean plant and is used when young as food: *green beans* | *runner beans* —see also **BROAD BEAN**, **FRENCH BEAN** **4** a seed of certain other plants, from which food or drink can be made: *coffee beans* **5** *esp. BrE [usu. in negatives] infml* the smallest possible amount of money: *I haven't a bean, so I can't pay you.* | *It's not worth a bean.* **6** **full of beans** *infml* full of life and eagerness **7** **not know beans** *AmE infml* to know nothing (about a subject): *He doesn't know beans about geography.* **8** **old bean** *BrE old-fash sl* (used to address a friend): *Have a look at this, old bean!* —see also **spill the beans** (**SPILL**¹) and see picture at **VEGETABLE**

bean-bag /'bi:nbæg/ *n* **1** a sewn cloth bag filled with beans, used as a child's toy **2** a very large **CUSHION** filled with small pieces of **POLYSTYRENE**, used as a piece of furniture for sitting on

bean curd /'bi:ɪ/ *n* [U] **TOFU**

Bea-no /'bi:nəʊ/, **The** a popular British weekly **COMIC** for children, with amusing stories and jokes

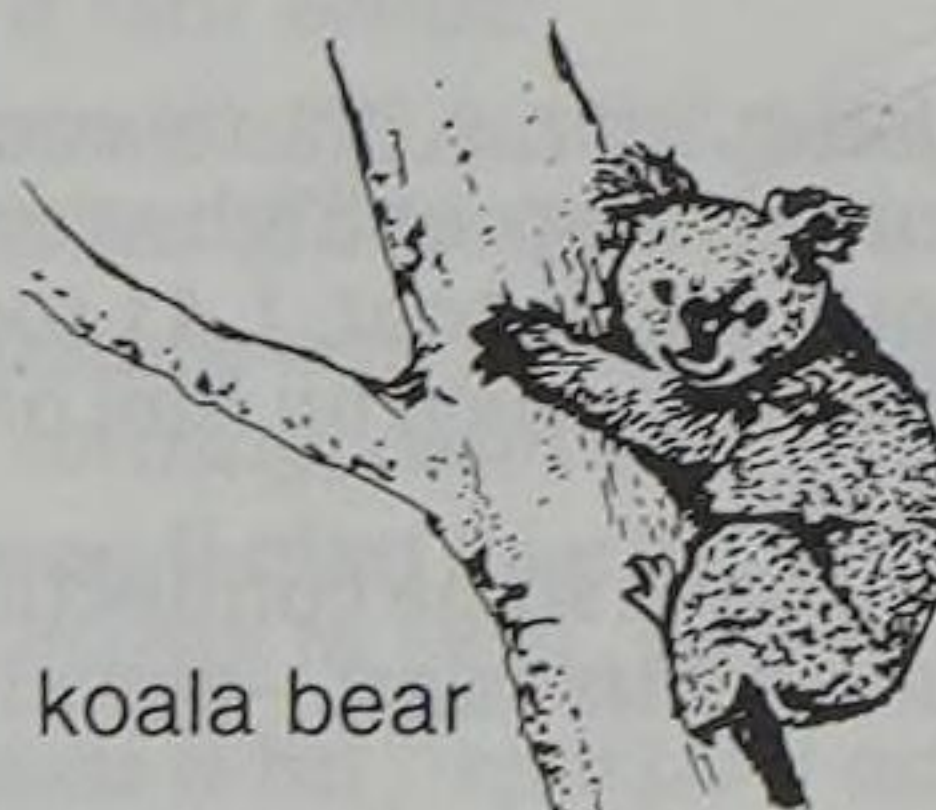
bean-pole /'bi:npəʊl/ *n* *humor* a person who is very tall and very thin

bean-sprout /'bi:nspraʊt/ *n* a bean which has grown a small **SHOOT**² (1), eaten in **SALADS**, Chinese food, etc.

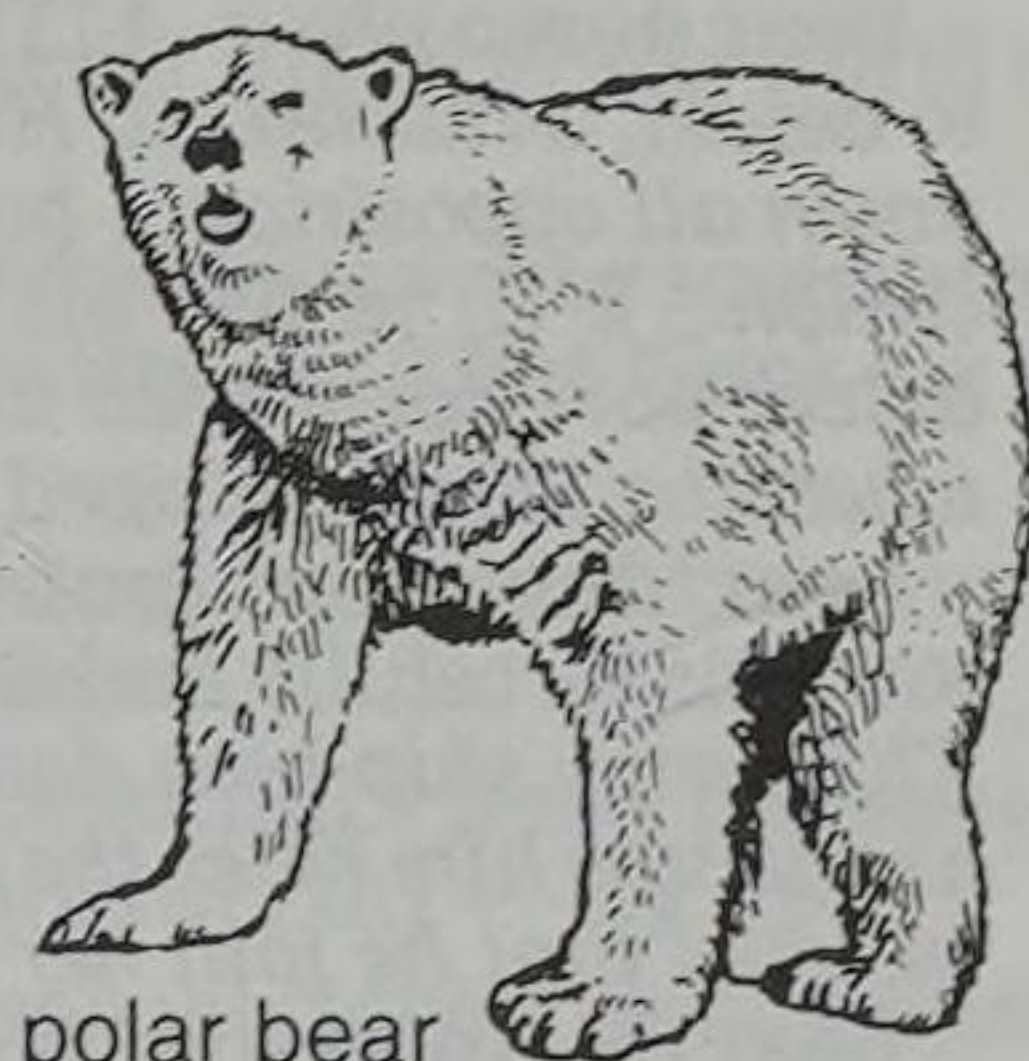
bears



grizzly bear



koala bear



polar bear

bear¹ /beə/ *n* **1** (*pl. bears or bear*) a usu. large heavy animal with thick rough fur, that eats flesh and also fruit and insects: *a brown bear* | *a polar bear* **2** a person who sells business shares or goods in expectation of a fall in prices —compare **BULL**¹ (3) **3** a rough, bad-mannered, bad-tempered man **4** **a bear with a sore head** a person who is very bad-tempered and does not seem to want the company of other people —see also **GREAT BEAR**, **TEDDY BEAR**

bear² *v* **bore** /bɔ:ɪ/, **borne** /bɔ:n||bɔ:rn/ **1** [T+obj+adv/prep] *fml or lit* to carry from one place to another; carry away; **CONVEY**: *The sound of music was borne on the wind.* | *He came bearing gifts for all the family.* **2** [T] to support (a weight or load); hold up: *I doubt if that chair will bear your weight.* | *a load-bearing wall* | (fig.) *The captain of the ship bears a heavy responsibility.* | (fig.) *All the costs of the repairs will be borne (=paid) by our company.* **3** [T] to have or show (a mark or characteristic): *He was attacked by a shark years ago, and his leg still bears the scars.* | *This letter bears no signature.* | *What she says bears no relation to (=is very different from) the truth.* | *The baby bears no resemblance to its father.* (=doesn't look like him) | *His latest film bears witness to (=is proof of) his versatility.* **4** [T] to suffer or accept (something unpleasant) without complaining; **ENDURE**: *She bore the pain with great courage.* | *There's nothing we can do about it, so we'll just have to grin and bear it.*

[+v-ing] *I can't bear* (=greatly dislike) *being kept waiting*.
 [+to-v] *I couldn't bear to listen any longer, so I left the room.* —see USAGE 5 [T] *usu. fml* to give birth to: *She bore/has borne three children.* [+obj(i)+obj(d)] *She bore him a daughter.* (=he was the father) | *a woman of child-bearing age* —see BORN¹ (USAGE) 6 [I;T] to produce (a crop or fruit): *The tree is bearing a lot of apples this year.* | (fig.) *Her efforts to stage the production bore fruit — the play was an overnight success.* 7 [I+adv/prep] to move in the stated direction: *Cross the field, bear left, and you'll soon reach the village.* 8 [T *usu. in negatives*] to be suitable for; allow: *Such weak arguments won't bear serious examination.* [+v-ing] *His words don't bear repeating.* | *The consequences simply don't bear thinking about.* (=are too terrible to think about) 9 [T] *usu. fml* to keep (a feeling towards someone) in one's mind: *to bear love for/hatred against somebody* | *Although they treated her badly she doesn't bear a grudge against them.* [+obj(i)+obj(d)] *She doesn't bear them a grudge.* 10 [T+obj+adv/prep] *fml* to behave or hold (oneself) in a stated way; COMPORT: *She bore herself with great dignity.* 11 **bring something to bear (on)** to direct something, e.g. force or persuasion (on); EXERT: *The government brought pressure to bear on the company to settle its dispute with the workers.* 12 **bear in mind** to remember to consider; take account of: *Admittedly she didn't make a very good job of it, but you must bear in mind that she was ill at the time.* | *Bear me in mind if you are thinking of buying tickets for that play.*

▷ USAGE Compare **abide**, **bear**, **endure**, **stand**, and **tolerate**. 1 **Abide**, **bear**, **stand**, and **endure** are all used with “can” in questions and with NEGATIVE words to express great dislike, but **endure** is *usu.* used only about something really serious: *I can't abide/bear/stand black coffee.* | *I can't endure talking to people who are racists.* 2 **Bear**, **endure**, and **stand** are also used for great physical hardship; **endure** suggests pain that lasts for a long time: *He bore/stood the pain as long as he could.* | *She had endured great pain for a number of years.* 3 **Tolerate** is used of people or behaviour, but not of suffering: *I won't tolerate your rudeness.* ◀

bear down *phr v* 1 [T] (**bear** sbdy./sthg. ↔ **down**) *fml* to defeat; OVERWHELM: *His determined efforts at last bore down all opposition.* | *borne down by poverty and deprivation* 2 [I] to use all one's strength and effort: *The driver bore down with all his strength to control the car when the wheels slipped.*

bear down on/upon sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] to come towards forcefully and threateningly, esp. at high speed: *The enemy ship bore down on our small boat.* | *As soon as she saw him enter the room she bore down on him and insisted that he join her for dinner.*

bear on/upon sthg. *phr v* [T] to have some connection with: *How does your news bear on this case?* —see also BEARING (2)

bear sthg. ↔ **out** *phr v* [T] to support the truth of: *The prisoner's story was borne out by his wife.* | *If you tell them what happened, I'll bear you out.*

bear up *phr v* [I] to show courage or strength by continuing in spite of difficulties: *She bore up bravely under her continual misfortunes.* | *Bear up! The news isn't so bad.*

bear with sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] to show patience towards; PUT UP WITH: *You must bear with his bad temper; he's very ill.* | *If you'll just bear with me for a couple of minutes I'll be able to give you an answer.*

bear-a-ble /'beərəbəl/ *adj* that can be borne or suffered; TOLERABLE: *The pain was just bearable.* | *His increase in salary made life more bearable.* —opposite **unbearable** —bly *adv*

bear claw /'beəklɔː/ *n* AmE a fruit-filled pastry with parallel cuts in the top that look like CLAWS (1)

beard /'biəd||'biərd/ *n* 1 hair on the face below the mouth, often including the jaws, chin, and neck: *Men and goats have beards.* | *He has/wears a beard.* | *He's growing a beard.* —compare MOUSTACHE, WHISKERS

► CULTURAL NOTE In Britain and the US beards have no social or religious significance. Men choose to have a beard if they consider it fashionable or attractive. In stories and films, men who are old and WISE are often shown with beards. Beards are also sometimes associated (ASSOCIATE) with people who have LIBERAL opinions: *The Liberal Party*

has been trying to get rid of the beards and sandals image. ◀

2 long hairs on a plant, as on BARLEY — ~ **ed adj**: *a tall, bearded man* — ~ **less adj**

beard² *v* [T] 1 esp. BrE to oppose or deal with (someone) confidently or disrespectfully; CONFRONT: *She bearded the committee and demanded an explanation.* 2 **beard the lion in his den** *lit* to face someone confidently on their own ground: *He's in his office, so let's beard the lion in his den now.*

Beard, James (1903–) an American writer of newspaper articles on food and of cookbooks

Beards-ley /'biədзли||'biər-/ , **Au-brey** /'ɔːbri/ (1872–98) an English ILLUSTRATOR of many books, whose pictures are *usu.* in black and white and appear flat and stylized (STYLIZE)

bear-er /'beərə/ *n* 1 (often in comb.) *fml* a person who bears or carries something: *a bearer of bad news* | *the flagbearer* | *a pallbearer at a funeral* 2 *fml* a person who holds a note or cheque for the payment of money to himself/herself: *The banknote says “payable to the bearer on demand”.* 3 esp. IndE & PakE a male servant

bearer bond /'beərə bɒnd/ *n* a BOND¹ (3) that is not recorded as belonging to a particular person and is therefore considered to belong to whoever holds it

bear gar-den /'beəgɑːdn/ *n* a place where people are making a lot of noise and behaving in a rough way: *Shut up for a minute! It's like a bear garden in here!*

bear hug /'beəhʌg/ *n* *infml* a rough tight EMBRACE

bear-ing /'beərɪŋ/ *n* 1 [S;U] the way a person holds their body or behaves; DEPORTMENT: *an upright, proud bearing* 2 [S;U (on)] connection with or influence on something: *What you have said has no bearing on the subject.* 3 [C] *tech* the part of a machine in which a turning rod is held, or which turns on a fixed rod —see also BALL BEARING 4 [C] *tech* a direction or angle as shown by a COMPASS: *to take a compass bearing* | (fig.) *In all this mass of details I'm afraid I've rather lost my bearings.* (=become confused)

bear-ish /'beərɪʃ/ *adj* 1 rude; rough; bad-tempered 2 *tech* marked by, expecting, or tending to cause falling prices —opposite **bullish** —see also BEAR¹ (2) — ~ **ly adv** — ~ **ness n** [U]

bear-skin /'beəskɪn||'beər-/ *n* 1 [C;U] the skin of a bear: *a bearskin rug* 2 [C] a tall black fur cap worn on ceremonial occasions by certain British soldiers

beast /biːst/ *n* 1 esp. *lit* an animal, esp. a four-footed one 2 *derog* a person (or sometimes a thing) that one does not like; BRUTE: *Her husband was a real beast.* | *a beast of a job* | *You beast!*

beast-ly /'biːstli/ *adj* *infml* very unpleasant; nasty: *a beastly person/habit* | *beastly weather* | *I've had a beastly cold.* —**beastly adv**: *It's beastly cold today.* —**liness n** [U]

beast of bur-den /'biːstəvɜːdn/ *n* *fml* or *lit* an animal, such as a horse or DONKEY, which carries things

beat¹ /biːt/ *v* **beat**, **beaten** /'biːtn/ or **beat** 1 [I+adv/prep;T] to hit again and again esp. with a stick or other hard instrument: *His father beat him for being disobedient.* | *to beat a drum* | *The rain was beating against the windows.* | *The firefighters beat back the flames.* | *The mechanic beat out the dent in the car.* (=removed it by beating) | *The police beat the door down in order to get into the house.* | *waves beating against the shore* | (fig.) *The sun beat down (on them) all day.* 2 [T (UP)] to mix with regular movements of a fork, spoon, etc.: *Beat (up) the egg whites until they become stiff.* 3 [I;T] to move regularly: *The bird beat its wings rapidly.* | *You can hear its heart beating.* 4 [T] to defeat; do better than: *She beat me at tennis.* | *She's hoping to beat the world record.* | *The beaten finalists were given silver medals.* | **It beats me** (=I can't understand) *how he can have done it.* | *That strange story beats everything (I have ever heard)!* | **You can't beat** (=there is nothing better than) *a good film.* —see WIN (USAGE) 5 [T (to)] to reach a place or succeed in doing something before (someone else): *We left early to beat the rush-hour traffic.* | *We were hoping to get there first, but they beat us to it.* 6 **beat about the bush**, also **beat around the bush** AmE— to delay talking about the most important part of a subject: *I wish you'd stop beating about the bush and tell me what you really want.* 7 **beat a path** to come rushing in large numbers: *If you*

invent a cheaper way of doing it, people will beat a path to your door. (=will be very eager to buy it from you) **8 beat a retreat** to go away quickly so as to avoid something unpleasant: *When they saw the teacher coming, they beat a (hasty) retreat.* **9 Beat it!** *sl* Go away at once! **10 beat one's brains out** *infml* to spend a lot of time thinking or worrying about something: *I've been beating my brains out trying to think what to do about my elderly mother.* **11 beat one's breast** *lit* to show (too) great grief **12 beat someone hollow** *infml* to defeat someone completely, esp. in a game or competition **13 beat someone's brains out** *infml* to beat someone very hard, esp. on the head **14 beat the heat** *AmE infml* to try to become cooler: *We're going swimming in the lake to beat the heat.* **15 beat the pants off someone** *infml* to defeat someone completely, e.g. in a game or competition **16 beat the rap** *AmE infml* to escape criminal charges or punishment: *The police got him for illegal possession, but he beat the rap.* **17 beat time** to make regular movements or noises by which the speed of music can be measured **18 Can you beat that/it!** *sl* Have you ever seen/heard anything as strange or surprising as that! **19 if you can't beat 'em, join 'em** *infml* if you cannot win in a situation, it is better to join the other side and gain whatever advantages you can **20 to beat the band** *AmE infml* in large amounts or with great force: *It's raining to beat the band.* —see also **BEATEN**, **BEATING**, **beat one's head against a brick wall** (**HEAD**¹)

beat sbdy. ↔ **down** *phr v* [T (to)] *infml* to persuade (someone) to reduce a price: *He wanted £10 for the dress, but I beat him down (to £8.50).*

beat off [T] (**beat** sbdy./sthg. ↔ **off**) *phr v* [T] **1** to prevent (an attack or attacker) from succeeding; drive back; REPULSE: *The police beat off the demonstrators to let the President's car through.* | *The company managed to beat off an attempted takeover.* **2** *AmE taboo sl* [I] to MASTURBATE **3** *AmE taboo sl* [T] (**beat** sbdy. ↔ **off**) to MASTURBATE (a male)

beat sthg. ↔ **out** *phr v* [T] **1** to sound by beating: *The drums beat out a rhythm.* | *The drummer beat out the rhythm on the drums.* **2** to put out (a fire) by beating

beat sbdy. ↔ **up** *phr v* [T] *infml* to wound (someone) severely by hitting: *The boys robbed the old man and beat him up.* | *He claimed that he had been beaten up by the police.*

beat² *n* **1** a single stroke or blow, as part of a group: *one beat of the drum every 60 seconds* | *a heartbeat* **2** [*usu. sing.*] a regular sound produced (as if) by repeated beating: *the beat of marching feet* **3** [*usu. sing.*] regular STRESS¹ (4) in music or poetry: *music with a strong beat* | *Every member of the band must follow the beat.* **4** the usual path followed by someone on duty, esp. a policeman

beat³ *adj* [F] *infml* very tired: *I'm (dead) beat after all that work!*

beat-en /'bi:tn/ *adj* [A] **1** (of metal) shaped by beating with a hammer: *The doors of the palace were of beaten gold.* **2** (of a path, track, etc.) given shape by the feet of those who pass along it: *We followed a well-beaten path through the forest.* **3 off the beaten track/path** not well-known; not often visited: *Let's go somewhere off the beaten track this summer.*

beat-er /'bi:tə/ *n* **1** (often in comb.) someone or something which beats: *an egg beater* | *a carpet beater* | *a wife beater* **2** (esp. in Britain) a person who drives wild birds or animals towards the guns of those waiting to shoot them **3** *AmE* an old car in poor condition

Beat Gen-er-a-tion /'bi:..n/ [*the*] the group of young people in the 1950s including the writers Jack Kerouac and Allen Ginsberg, who refused to accept the values of Western society, and showed this by refusing to work, keeping no material possessions, and wearing their own style of clothes —see also **ALLEN GINSBERG**

bea-tif-ic /biə'tɪfɪk/ *adj* giving or showing great joy, peace, or blessedness: *a beatific smile on the holy man's face* — **ally** /kli/ *adv*

be-at-i-fy /bi'ætɪfaɪ/ *v* [T] (in the Roman Catholic Church) to declare (a dead person) officially blessed and holy —**fication** /bi'ætɪfə'keɪʃən/ *n* [C;U]

beat-ing /'bi:tɪŋ/ *n* **1** [C;U] an act of giving repeated blows, usu. for punishment: *He was given a severe beating for lying to his father.* **2** [C] a defeat, esp. in a game or competition: *The home side got/took quite a beating.*

be-at-i-tude /bi'ætɪtju:d/ -tu:d/ *n* [U] *fml* or *lit* a state of great happiness or blessedness

Be-at-i-tudes /bi'ætɪtju:dz/ -tu:dz/ *n* [*the*+P] the statements about those who are blessed made by Jesus in the Bible (Matthew 5:3–12)

Beat-les /'bi:tlz/, **The** a British popular music group who made their first record in 1962 and became probably the most famous and successful group ever. When they separated in 1970, each member of the group continued to work in popular music. —see also **George HARRISON**, **John LENNON**, **Paul MCCARTNEY**, **Ringo STARR** and see colour picture on page 554

beat-nik /'bi:tnɪk/ *n* in the late 1950s and early 1960s, a person who showed opposition to the moral standards and ways of life of ordinary society. People often think of beatniks as young people with long hair and dirty clothes.

Bea-ton /'bi:tn/, **Sir Ce-cil** /'sesəl/ (1904–80) an English photographer and clothing, theatre, and film DESIGNER, known esp. for his pictures of famous and wealthy people

Bea-trice¹ /'bi:trɪs/, **Princess** (1988–) the older daughter of the Duke and Duchess of York

Beatrice² the main female character in the *Divine Comedy* by Dante, who guides him through Paradise

Beat-ty /'bi:ti/, **Warren** (1937–) an American actor who has appeared in many films but is most often talked about for being extremely attractive to women — see picture at **BONNIE AND CLYDE**

beat-up /'bi:.. / *adj* *AmE infml* in bad condition: *a beat-up old car*

beau /bəʊ/ *n* **beaux** /bəʊz/ or **beaus** *old use or lit* **1** a fashionable well-dressed man **2** a woman's admirer or lover

Beau-jo-lais /'bəʊzələɪ/ ,bəʊzə'leɪ/ *n* [U] a type of French red wine

Beau-jo-lais nou-veau / ,bəʊzələɪ nu:'vəʊ/ ,bəʊzə'leɪ/ *n* [U] the first bottles from the year's production of Beaujolais wine. Competitions are held to see who can be first to bring the new wine to Britain.

beau monde / ,bəʊ 'mɔ:nd/ -'ma:nd/ *n* [*the*] *Fr* the world of high society and fashion

beaut¹ /bjʊ:t/ *n* *AmE & AustrE infml* someone or something that is very good (or bad); BEAUTY (3): *That black eye is a real beaut!*

beaut² *adj* *AustrE infml* (of things) nice; good; MARVELOUS: *The food/weather was beaut.*

beau-te-ous /'bjʊ:tiəs/ *adj* *poet* beautiful: *"It is a beauteous evening, calm and free."* (Wordsworth) — **ly** *adv*

beau-ti-cian /bjʊ:'tɪʃən/ *n* a person who gives beauty treatments to skin, hair, etc.

beau-ti-ful /'bjʊ:tɪfəl/ *adj* **1** having beauty; giving great pleasure to the mind or senses: *a beautiful girl/lake/sunset* **2** *infml* very good: *The soup was really beautiful.* — see also **small is beautiful** (**SMALL**¹) — **ly** *adv*: *a beautifully written novel*

▷ **USAGE** **1 Beautiful** is a much stronger word to describe a person's appearance than **pretty**, **handsome**, **good-looking**, or **attractive**. **2 Beautiful** and **pretty** can be used of women, children, and things, but not usu. of men: *a beautiful girl/house* | *a pretty child/picture*. **Handsome** is usu. used of men, but a **handsome** woman is **good-looking** in a strong, healthy way. **Good-looking** can be used of men and women, but not usu. of things. **Attractive** can be used of men, women, and things: *an attractive young man* | *an attractive pattern*. —see also **LOVELY** (**USAGE**)<

beautiful peo-ple / ,... 'li: / *n* [P] *AmE* rich, usu. famous people: *The beautiful people all spend their summers at Martha's Vineyard.*

beau-ti-fy /'bjʊ:tɪfaɪ/ *v* [T] to make beautiful

beau-ty /'bjʊ:ti/ *n* **1** [U] the qualities in someone or something that give pleasure to the senses or lift up the mind or spirit: *a woman/a poem of great beauty* | *enchanted by the beauty of the scenery* **2** [C] someone (usu. female) or something beautiful: *His mother was a great beauty.* | *the beauties of our city* **3** [C] *infml* someone or something very good (or bad); a perfect example: *That apple is a real beauty.* | *That black eye you got in the fight is a beauty!* **4** [*the* (of)] the advantage (of something); a particularly

good quality that makes something special or valuable: *The beauty (of my idea) is that it would cost so little!* **5 a thing of beauty is a joy for ever** *quote* a phrase from a poem by John Keats **6 Beauty is in the eye of the beholder** *saying* different people have different opinions about what is beautiful **7 Beauty is only skin deep** *saying* a person may be attractive, but they may also be an unpleasant person underneath

Beauty and the Beast /ˌbjuː.ti.ənd ðə biːst/ a French fairy story about a beautiful young girl who has to live with an ugly, half-human creature (the Beast) to repay a favour he did her father. She finally agrees to marry him, at which point the SPELL is broken and he changes into a HANDSOME PRINCE.

beauty con-test /ˌbjuː.ti.ənd kɒnˈtɛst/ *n* a competition for young women in which their appearance, and sometimes other qualities, are compared and judged. Beauty contests are popular in Britain and the US, but many people, esp. FEMINISTS, disapprove of the idea that women should be judged by how attractive they are. —see also BEAUTY QUEEN

beauty mark /ˌbjuː.ti.ənd mɑːk/ *n* AmE for BEAUTY SPOT (2)

beauty par-lour /ˌbjuː.ti.ənd ˈpɑːləʊ/ also **beauty sal-on** /ˌbjuː.ti.ənd ˈsæl.ɒn/ *n* a place where women are given beauty treatments for the face, hair, etc.

beauty queen /ˌbjuː.ti.ənd kwiːn/ *n* the winner of a competition in which women are judged for their beauty

beauty sleep /ˌbjuː.ti.ənd sliːp/ *n* [U] usu. humor sleep during the early part of the night, believed to be the best for beauty

beauty spot /ˌbjuː.ti.ənd spɒt/ *n* **1** a place known for the beauty of its scenery **2** ||also **beauty mark** AmE a dark-coloured mark on the skin

Beau-voir /ˌbɔː.vɔɪər/ ||bɔː.vɔɪər/, **Si-mone de** /sɪˈmɒn də/ (1908–86) a French writer known esp. for her belief in EXISTENTIALISM and in a political role for women. Her works include *The Second Sex* and *The Mandarins*.

beaver /ˈbiː.vər/ *n* **1** [C] a water and land animal of the rat family with a broad flat tail and valuable fur. Beavers build DAMS across streams and are supposed to work very hard. **2** [U] the skin of this animal: *a beaver coat* —see also EAGER and see picture at RODENT BEAVER

beaver ² *v*

beaver away *phr v* [I (at)] *infml*, esp. BrE to work hard, esp. at a desk job: *We watched him beaver away at his complicated calculations.*

Bea-ver-brook /ˈbiː.vəbrʊk/ ||-vər-, **Lord** (1879–1964) a very successful British newspaper owner and politician born in Canada, the holder of several high offices in the government and owner of the Daily Express and other newspapers

be-bop /ˈbiːbɒp/ ||-bɔːp/ *n* [U] BOP³

be-calmed /bɪˈkɑːmd/ ||-ˈkɑːmd, -ˈkɑːlmd/ *adj* (of a sailing ship) unable to move because there is no wind

be-cause /bɪˈkɔːz, bɪˈkæz/ ||bɪˈkɔːz, bɪˈkæz/ *conj* **1** for the reason that: *I do it because I like it.* | *She got the job because she was the best candidate.* | “Why can’t I go?” “Because you’re too young.” **2** **because of** by reason of; as a result of: *I came back because of the rain.* —see REASON (USAGE) **3** **because it’s there** *quote* a phrase originally used by the mountain climber George Mallory when asked to explain why he wanted to climb Mount Everest, and now sometimes used humorously as an answer when someone is asked why they want to do something very difficult or dangerous

Be-cher’s Brook /ˌbiːtʃəz ˈbrʊk/ ||-tʃəz-/ a very difficult jump in the British Grand National horse race, at which many horses fall

Bech-et /ˈbeʃeɪ/, **Sid-ney** /ˈsɪdni/ (1897–1959) an American JAZZ musician who played the SAXOPHONE and CLARINET

beck /bek/ *n* **at someone’s/one’s beck and call** always ready to do anything someone/one asks

beck ² *n* NEngE a stream, esp. a small hill stream

Bec-ker /ˈbekər/, **Bor-is** /ˈbɒrɪs/ ||ˈbɔː-/ (1967–) a German tennis player, the youngest man to win the SINGLES competition at Wimbledon, at the age of 17

Bec-ket /ˈbekɪt/, **Saint Thomas à** (1118–70) an English SAINT and MARTYR. AS ARCHBISHOP of Canterbury, he quarrelled with King Henry II. Henry is believed to have said of Becket, “Who will rid me of this turbulent priest?”, and as a result Becket was murdered in Canterbury Cathedral.

Bec-kett /ˈbekɪt/, **Sam-u-el** /ˈsæmjʊəl/ (1906–89) an Irish writer of plays, books, and poetry, who lived in France and is best known for his play *Waiting for Godot*

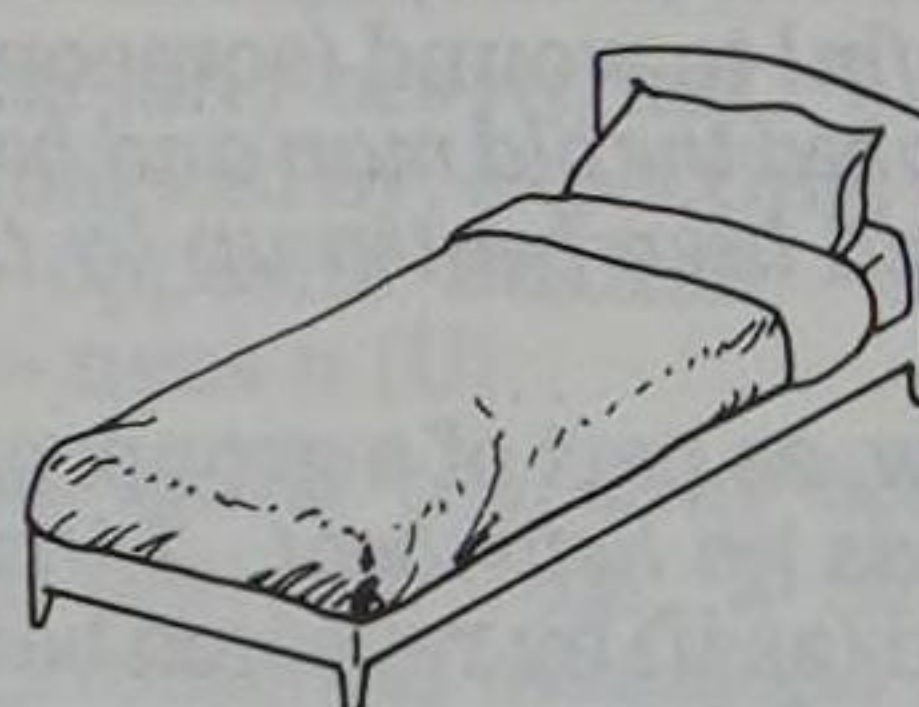
beck-on /ˈbekən/ *v* [I (to); T] to call, order, or signal with a movement of the head, hand, etc.: *I could see her beckoning (to) me from the other side of the room.* | *She beckoned me to follow her.* | *He beckoned with his finger and the child came running.* | *He stood waiting until the policeman beckoned him on.* | (fig.) *I’d like to stay — but work beckons, you know!*

be-come /bɪˈkʌm/ *v* **became** /bɪˈkeɪm/, **become** **1** [L] to begin or come to be: *He became king at the age of 17.* | *After the death of her father she became the richest woman in the world.* | *The weather became warmer.* | *We soon became acclimatized to the warmer weather.* | *These constant delays are becoming a bit of a bore.* | *She became increasingly anxious about her husband’s strange behaviour.* | *He withdrew from the competition when it became clear that he stood no chance of winning.* **2** [T] *fml* to be right or suitable to; BEFIT: *This sort of behaviour hardly becomes a person in your position.*

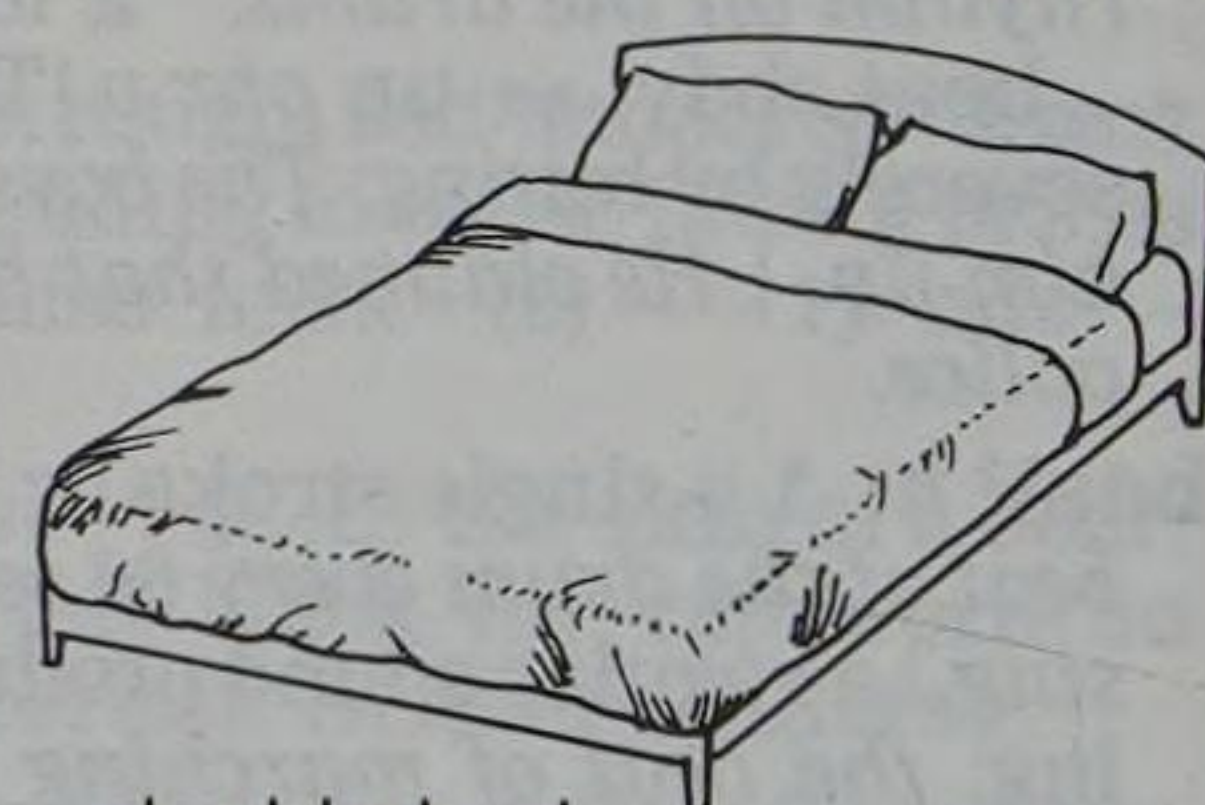
become of sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] to happen to, often in a bad way: *I don’t know what will become of us if the company goes bankrupt.* | *Whatever became of that nice girl you used to share a flat with?*

▷ **USAGE Become** can be used of people and things and with most types of adjective: *Mary became angry/famous.* | *The sky became cloudy.* | *It became clear that he was lying.* With adjectives of colour, **turn** can be used: *The leaves are turning brown,* or **go** (informally, or if the change in colour is not long-lasting; **go** is non-standard in American English when used in this way). Compare: *His skin had turned/gone (infml) brown from the weeks he spent working in the sun.* | *His face went red when they made fun of him.* **Go** can also be used to show changes (usu. for the worse) in expressions like: *He went mad/blind/deaf/bald.* | *The meat’s gone bad.* ◁

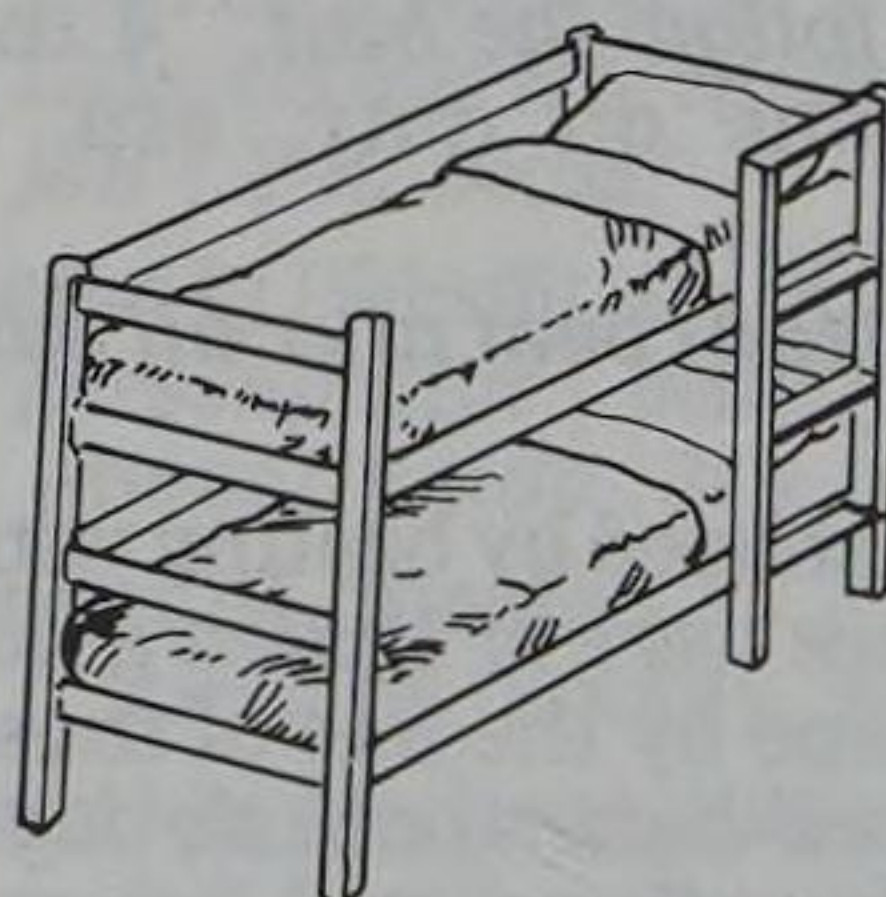
beds



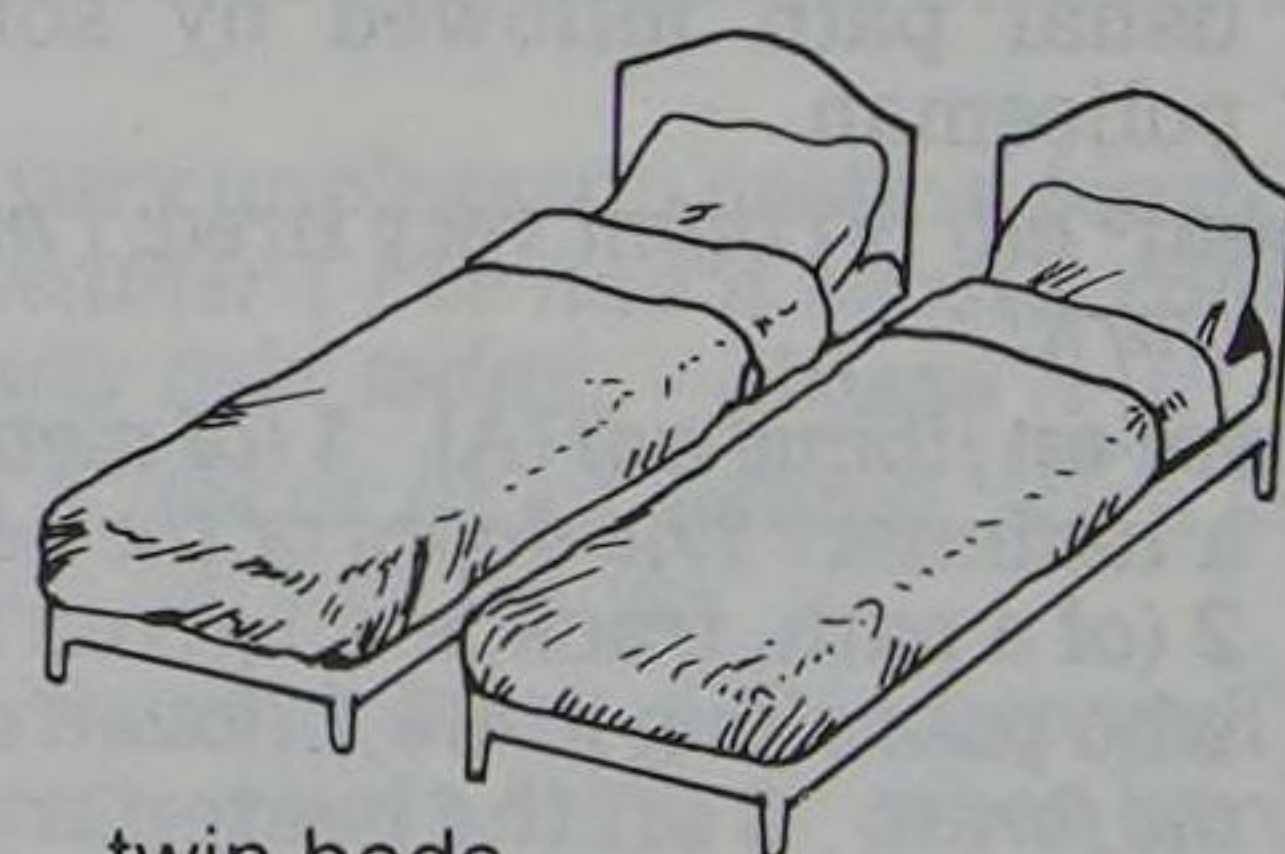
single bed



double bed



bunk beds



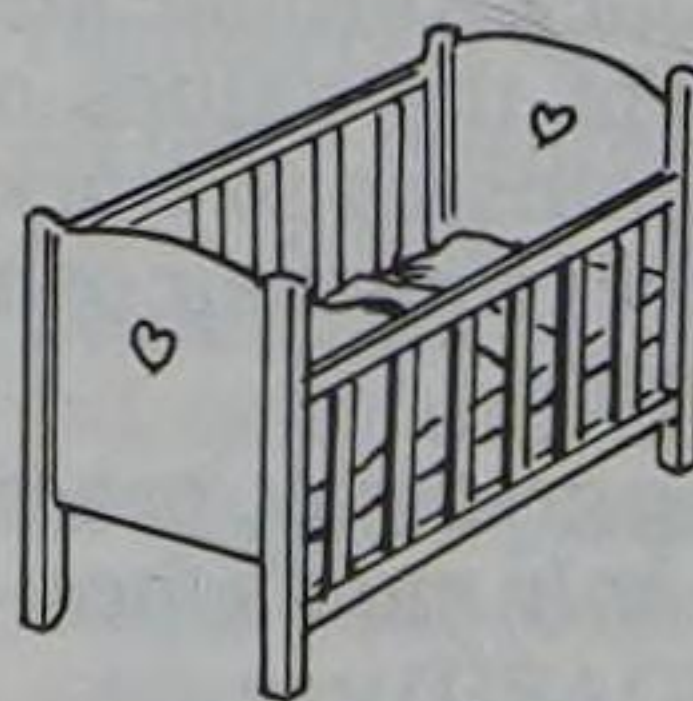
twin beds



camp bed BrE/
cot AmE



futon



cot BrE/crib AmE

carrycot BrE/portacrib AmE



cradle

be-com-ing /bɪˈkʌmɪŋ/ *adj fml* **1** *apprec* (of colour, clothes, etc.) looking very good on the wearer: *Blue always looks very becoming on her.* **2** proper or suitable; APPROPRIATE: *His laughter was not very becoming on such a solemn occasion.* —opposite **unbecoming** — *~ly adv*

beef¹ /bi:f/ *n* 1 [U] the meat of farm cattle. ROAST beef with YORKSHIRE PUDDING is a TRADITIONAL British Sunday LUNCH: *beef steak* | *roast beef* | *a beef farmer* —see MEAT (USAGE) 2 [U] *infml* the power of the muscles: *Come on, put some beef into the job!* 3 [C] *infml* a complaint: *My main beef is that it went on too long.*

beef² *v* [I (about)] *infml* often *derog* to complain, esp. repeatedly: *Stop beefing (about your pay) and do some work!*

beef sthg./sbdy. ↔ **up** *phr v* [T] *infml* to strengthen or improve: *It's quite a good story but it needs beefing up a bit before we can publish it.*

beef-bur-ger /'bi:fbʊ:gə/ || -bʊ:z- *n* esp. BrE a HAMBURGER

beef-cake /'bi:fkɛ:k/ *n* [U] *infml* (photographs of) strong attractive men with large muscles —compare CHEESECAKE (2)

Beef-eat-er /'bi:f,i:tə/ *n* a soldier who wears a special old-fashioned uniform and acts as a ceremonial guard in the Tower of London

beef tea /i- 'i- *n* [U] a drink made from beef juice, often given formerly to sick people

beef Wel-ling-ton /i- 'i- *n* [U] a piece of BEEF (= meat from a cow) covered with PATE DE FOIE GRAS and cooked in a pastry case

beef-y /'bi:fi/ *adj infml* (of a person) big, strong, and perhaps fat; HEFTY

Bee Gees /'bi: 'dʒi:z/, The a highly successful British popular music group of three brothers, best known for their songs (which they also wrote) for the film *Saturday Night Fever*

bee-hive /'bi:haiv/ *n* 1 a HIVE¹ (1) 2 a women's HAIRSTYLE in which the hair is piled high on the head: *She wore her hair in a beehive.*

bee-line /'bi:lain/ *n* **make a beeline for** *infml* to go quickly and directly towards: *The children ignored all the other food and made a beeline for the cakes.*

Be-el-ze-bub /bi'elzəbʌb/ a devil, esp. Satan

been /bi:n, bin||bin/ 1 *past participle* of BE: *They've been photographed.* 2 (to have) gone and come back from: *Have you ever been to India?* 3 BrE (to have) arrived and left: *The postman hasn't been yet.* —see GO^{3,4} (USAGE)

beep /bi:p/ *n* the sound of a car horn —**beep** *v* [I;T]: *He sat out front in his car and beeped his horn for her to come out.* | *All night long the traffic kept him awake — horns beeping, tyres squealing, car doors slamming.*

beep-er /'bi:pə/ *n* AmE BLEEPER

beer /biə/ *n* 1 [C;U] (a glass of) an alcoholic drink made from MALT and made bitter with hops (HOP³): *a pint of beer* | *Would you like a (glass of) beer?* | *They brew several excellent beers in this district.*

► **CULTURAL NOTE** Many different varieties of beer are sold in British pubs, e.g. **mild**, **bitter**, **lager**, **stout**. People usu. ask for a beer of a certain type or by the name of the company that produces the beer: *Half a bitter, please.* | *Two pints of Guinness.* In the US, people generally use the word "beer" when asking for or offering a beer: *Two beers, please.* Most beer sold in the US is LAGER (= pale-coloured beer), and it is always drunk very cold. ◀

2 [U] (*in comb.*) any of several kinds of drink, usu. non-alcoholic, made from roots or plants: *ginger beer* | *root beer* 3 **I'm only here for the beer** a phrase originally used in a British advertisement for a particular kind of beer, now used humorously to mean "I am not here to offer support or because I am interested but because there is free drink" 4 **not all beer and skittles** BrE *infml* not just full of pleasure and enjoyment: *An actor's life isn't all beer and skittles.* —see also SMALL BEER and see picture at GLASS —**beery** *adj*: *unpleasant beery breath*

Beer-bohm /'biəbəʊm||'biə-/, Sir Max /mæks/ (1872–1956) a British humorous writer

beer tent /i- 'i- *n* a large tent in which beer and other alcoholic drinks can be bought at an outdoor event

bees-wax /'bi:zwæks/ *n* [U] 1 a fatty substance (WAX) made by bees, used for making furniture polish, candles, etc. 2 **none of your beeswax** esp. AmE *infml* not concerning you at all

beet /bi:t/ *n* [C;U] 1 also **sugar beet**— a root vegetable from which sugar is obtained —see also SUGAR 2 AmE a BEETROOT 3 **red as a beet** AmE *infml* very red in the

face: *He turned red as a beet when I found the letter.*

Beet-ho-ven /'beithəʊvən/, **Lud-wig van** /'lʊdvɪg væn/ (1770–1827) a German COMPOSER, one of the best known and most admired composers of all time, who continued writing music after he became unable to hear at the age of 30. Among the most famous of his many works are the *Fifth Symphony* and the *Emperor Concerto*.

bee-tle¹ /'bi:təl/ *n* any of many kinds of insect with hard wing coverings —see picture at INSECT

beetle² *v* [I+adv/prep] BrE *sl* (of people) to go quickly, esp. as if trying not to be noticed: *I saw you beetling off/away early last night.*

Beetle *n* tdmk a small car made by Volkswagen which has a high, rounded top

Bee-ton /'bi:tən/, Mrs (1836–65) an English cookery writer, best known for her *Book of Household Management*

beet-root /'bi:trʊt/ BrE || **beet** AmE— *n* -root or -roots [C;U] a plant with a large round red root, cooked and eaten as a vegetable: *beetroot salad* | *She turned as red as a beetroot when they laughed at her.*

be-fall /bi'fɔ:l/ *v* -fell /'fel/, -fallen /'fɔ:lən/ [I;T] *fml* (usu. of something bad) to happen to, esp. as if by fate: *Some misfortune must have befallen them.*

be-fit /bi'fit/ *v* -tt- [T] *fml* to be proper or suitable to: *He always travels first class, as befits a person in his position.* | *a sober suit befitting the occasion* — **tingly** *adv*

be-fore¹ /bi'fɔ:r/ *prep* 1 earlier than: *before 1937* | *He got there before me.* | *The new road will be completed before the end of the year.* | *the day before yesterday* (=two days ago) | *I usu. take a bath before having my breakfast.* 2 at an earlier point in an order than; ahead of: *Your name comes before mine in the list.* 3 for the consideration of: *The proposal was put before the planning committee.* 4 *fml* or *lit* in front of: *The priest stood before the altar.* | *The great plain stretched out before them.* 5 in a more important position than: *I've always put quality before quantity.* — see LAST¹ (USAGE)

before² *adv* 1 at an earlier time; already; formerly: *Haven't I seen you before?* | *I thought he'd take it easy after the accident, but he carries on driving like a maniac, as before.* | *We had met on the Saturday before.* (compare *We met last Saturday.*) —see AGO (USAGE) 2 becoming rare in advance; ahead

before³ *conj* 1 earlier than the time when: *Say goodbye before you go.* | *It will be some time before we know the full results.* 2 more willingly than; rather than: *He will die before he tells them what they want to know.* 3 if not; or else; otherwise: *Get out before I call the police.*

be-fore-hand /bi'fɔ:hænd||-'fɔ:r- *adv* before something else happens; in advance: *We knew they were coming, so we bought some food beforehand.*

be-friend /bi'frend/ *v* [T] *fml* to act as a friend to (esp. someone who is younger, or needs help): *They befriended me when I first arrived in London as a student.*

beg /beg/ *v* -gg- 1 [I (for);T] to ask (esp. for food, money, etc.) in a way which shows little pride or self-respect: *He lives by begging.* | *He begged (for) money (from the people in the street).* | *a begging letter* 2 [I;T (of, for)] to ask (for) with great eagerness or anxiety: *to beg a favour (of someone)* | *to beg (for) forgiveness* | *She begged and begged until I said yes.* [+to-v] *He begged to be allowed to go.* [+that] *He begged that he (should) be sent home.* [+obj+to-v] *She begged me not to tell her parents.* 3 [T] (in certain phrases) to request politely: **I beg your pardon.** (=I am sorry.) [+to-v] **I beg to differ.** (=I don't agree with you.) 4 [I] (of a dog) to sit up with its front legs held against its chest 5 **beg the question** to take as true something that is not yet proved 6 BrE **going begging** able to be got or used; AVAILABLE: *Those cakes are going begging if anyone would like them.*

beg off *phr v* [I] to excuse (oneself) from doing something one had agreed to do: *Jane has just begged off — can you take her place in the team?*

be-get /bi'get/ *v* **begot** /bi'gɒt||bi'gɑ:t/ or (*bibl*) **begat** /bi'gæt/, **begotten** /bi'gɒtn||bi'gɑ:tn/ [T] esp. *bibl* or old use to become the father of: "Abraham begat (=begot) Isaac." (The Bible, Matthew 1:2) | (*fig.*) *Hunger begets (=produces) crime.*

beg-gar¹ /'begə/ *n* 1 a person who lives by begging 2 *infml* any person, esp. a man or boy: *He's a cheerful little beggar!* | *So you're off to San Francisco tomorrow, you*

lucky beggar! **3** **beggars can't be choosers** saying people in need must accept what they can get, without worrying about the quality

beggar² *v* [T] **1** *fml* to make very poor: *They were beggared by trying to pay for their children's education.* **2** **beggar (all) description** *BrE* *lit* to be beyond the powers of language to describe: *The valley was so beautiful as to beggar description.*

beg-gar-ly /'begəli||-ərli/ *adj* much too little in amount; MEAGRE: *to earn a beggarly salary* — **liness** *n* [U]

beggar-my-neigh-bour /,biː . 'niː/ *n* [U] a card game in which the aim is to obtain all one's opponents' cards, leaving them with none

Beggar's Op-e-ra /,biː . 'ɒp-ə/ [*the*] an OPERA by John Gay, first produced in 1728, which takes place in and around Newgate prison in London, and has as one of its main characters a HIGHWAYMAN called Macheath

beg-gar-y /'begəri/ *n* [U] the state of being very poor: *They were reduced to beggary by the failure of their farm.*

be-gin /biˈɡɪn/ *v* **began** /biˈɡæn/, **begun** /biˈɡʌn/ [I;T] **1** to do or be the first part of (a process or activity); make a start (on): *I'll begin whenever you're ready.* | *Work on the new bridge will begin next month.* | *She curled up in bed and began her book.* | *The book began with the death of a reporter.* | *We'll begin by dancing/with a story/at the beginning.* [+to-*v*] *It began to rain.* | *Even his greatest admirers are beginning to wonder if he is too old for the job.* | *I couldn't (even) begin to explain.* (=It's quite impossible to explain.) [+*v*-ing] *She began learning English five years ago.* | *We can't possibly go — to begin with* (=the first reason is) *it's too cold, and besides, we have no money.* — see START (USAGE) **2** to (cause to) come into existence: *The war began in 1939.* | *She began a club for bird-watchers.*

Be-gin /'beɪɡɪn/, **Me-na-chem** /məˈnɑːkɪm/ (1913–92) an Israeli politician and PRIME MINISTER from 1977 to 1983. In 1979 he signed a peace TREATY with President Sadat of Egypt which was known as the Camp David agreement.

be-gin-ner /biˈɡɪnə/ *n* a person who is just beginning to do or learn something: *I scored three goals the first time I played, but they put it down to beginner's luck.* (=unusual success at the start which is not expected to last) — compare STARTER

be-gin-ning /biˈɡɪnɪŋ/ *n* [C;U] **1** the point at which something begins; start; origin: *at the beginning of the month* | *She knows the subject from beginning to end.* (=completely) — see PREFACE (USAGE) **2** **In the beginning was the Word** the first words of St John's Gospel in the Bible **3** **the beginning of the end** the point at which something good starts to come to an end or be less good

be-gone /biˈɡɒn||biˈɡɔːn/ *v* [I *usu.* imperative] poet to go away at once: *Begone with you!*

be-go-ni-a /bɪˈɡəʊniə/ *n* a type of tropical plant with bright yellow, pink, red, or white flowers

be-got /biˈɡɒt||biˈɡɑːt/ *past tense* of BEGET

be-got-ten /biˈɡɒtən||biˈɡɑːtn/ *past participle* of BEGET

be-grudge /biˈɡrʌdʒ/ also **grudge**— *v* [T] to give or allow (something) unwillingly, esp. because it is unwanted or undeserved: *She begrudged every minute taken from her work.* [+*v*-ing] *I begrudge spending so much money on train fares.* [+obj(i)+obj(d)] *We shouldn't begrudge him his success.*

be-guile /biˈgaɪl/ *v* [T] **1** to charm or attract: *a beguiling smile* **2** [(AWAY, by, with)] *BrE* to cause (time) to pass esp. in a pleasant way: *We beguiled (away) the time by telling jokes/with a bottle of wine and some good music.* **3** [(into)] to deceive; cheat: *I was beguiled by his flattery into trusting him.* — **ment** *n* [U]

be-gum /'beɪɡəm, 'biː-/ *n* (often *cap.*) (in India and Pakistan) a Muslim lady of high rank; often used as a title of respect for any married woman

be-gun /biˈɡʌn/ *past participle* of BEGIN

be-half /biˈhɑːf||biˈhæf/ *n* **on behalf of** also **in behalf of** *AmE*— for, in the interests of, or as the representative of (someone else): *On behalf of everyone here, I'd like to thank our special guest for his entertaining speech.* | *The President can't be here today, so I'm going to speak on his behalf.*

Be-han /'biːən/, **Bren-dan** /'brendən/ (1923–64) an Irish

writer who wrote about his experience of being in prison for IRA activities in plays such as *The Quare Fellow* (1954) and in his AUTOBIOGRAPHY *Borstal Boy*

be-have /biˈheɪv/ *v* **1** [I+adv/prep] to act in a particular way: *She's been behaving rather oddly.* | *Quantum mechanics is the branch of physics which studies the way atoms behave.* | *My car has been behaving well since it was repaired.* **2** [I;T] to act in a socially acceptable or polite way: *Behave (yourself)!* | *a well-behaved/badly-behaved child*

be-hav-iour *BrE* || **-ior** *AmE* /biˈheɪvjə/ *n* [U] **1** way of behaving **2** **be on one's best behaviour** to be very polite; show one's best manners — **al** *adj*: *behavioural science* — **ally** *adv*

be-hav-iour-is-m *BrE* || **-ior-** *AmE* /biˈheɪvjərɪzəm/ *n* [U] *tech* the idea that the scientific study of the mind should be based only on outward behaviour and physical states, not on people's reports of their thoughts and feelings — **ist** *n*

be-head /biˈhed/ *v* [T] to cut off the head of, esp. as a punishment; DECAPITATE

Be-he-moth /bɪˈhiːməθ||-məθ/ an extremely large, MYTHICAL creature mentioned in the Bible, whose name is now used to describe something very big: *five warships, including two 64,000-ton behemoths* — see also LEVIATHAN

be-hest /biˈhest/ *n* [S] *fml* an urgent request or command: *at the behest of his mother*

be-hind¹ /biˈhaɪnd/ *prep* **1** at or towards the back of: *She ran out from behind a tree.* | (fig.) *I wonder what's behind* (=what is the real reason for) *his sudden change of plan.* | (fig.) *Now you can put all these worries behind you.* (=forget them) — opposite **in front of** (FRONT¹) **2** lower than, in position or quality; below: *We're three points behind the team in first place.* | *He's always behind the rest of his class in mathematics.* | *The trains are running behind schedule.* (=later than the proper time) — opposite **ahead of** (AHEAD) **3** in support of; encouraging: *We're (right) behind you all the way!* — see also **behind someone's back** (BACK¹ (10)), **behind the scenes** (SCENE), **behind the times** (TIME¹), **behind closed doors** (DOOR)

behind² *adv* **1** at or towards the back: *a house with a garden behind* | *The motorcyclists came first, with the President's car following close behind.* — compare **in front** (FRONT¹) **2** in the place where something or someone was before: *I can't unlock the car because I've left the keys behind.* | *They went for a walk but I stayed behind to look after the baby.* **3** [(with, in)] late; slow; BEHINDHAND: *I'm a month behind with the rent.* (=I should have paid it a month ago.)

behind³ *n* *euph sl* the part of the body that a person sits on; BUTTOCKS: *I gave him a kick in the behind.*

be-hind-hand /biˈhaɪndhænd/ *adv* [(with, in)] *rather fml* late or slow in doing something, paying something, etc.: *We're a month behindhand with the rent.*

be-hold /biˈhəʊld/ *v* **beheld** /biˈheld/ [T] *esp. lit or old use* to see; look at: *They beheld the great city of Babylon.* — see also LO AND BEHOLD — **er** *n*

be-hold-en /biˈhəʊldən/ *adj* [F (to)] having to feel grateful or having a duty (to): *I like to do things for myself and not feel beholden to anyone else.*

be-hove /biˈhəʊv||biˈhʊv/ also **be-hoove** /biˈhʊv/ *AmE*— *v* **it behooves one to** it is right and necessary to: *It would behoove you to work harder if you want to succeed here.*

Bei-der-becke /'baɪdəbek||-də-/ , **Bix** /bɪks/ (1903–31) an American JAZZ musician who played the piano and CORNET and was one of the few white musicians to influence the early development of jazz

beige /beɪʒ/ *adj* pale dull yellowish brown — **beige** *n* [U]

Bei-jing /,beɪˈdʒɪŋ/ the capital city of the People's Republic of China; old English name **Peking**

be-ing¹ /'biːɪŋ/ *n* **1** [U] the state of existing: *When did the universe first come into being?* | *This rule was brought into being because the old law was obsolete.* **2** [C] a living thing, esp. a person: *a human being* | *strange beings from outer space* | *the Supreme Being* (=God) | *sentient being* (=a being with a mind) **3** [U] the central qualities or nature of a thing, esp. a living thing: *The news shook me to the very roots of my being.*

being² *present participle* of BE: *They're being photographed.* | *All being well* (=if everything goes well), *we*

should arrive by tomorrow. —see also **for the time being** (TIME¹ (28))

Bei-rut /beɪˈruːt/ the capital city of Lebanon. Once an important centre of business and finance in the Middle East, it was badly damaged during the long CIVIL WAR in the 1970s and '80s.

Be-kaa Val-ley /bɪˈkɑː ˈvæli/ a 100-mile-long valley in Lebanon and Syria, an important line of travel for which many wars have been fought

be-la-bour BrE || -bor AmE /bɪˈleɪbə/ v [T (with)] *old use* to beat severely

be-lat-ed /bɪˈleɪtɪd/ *adj* delayed; happening or arriving (too) late: *a belated apology/birthday card* — *~ly adv*: *The letter arrived belatedly, when the wedding was over.*

be-lay /bɪˈleɪ/ v [I;T] *tech* (on ships) to fix (a rope) by winding under and over in the shape of the figure 8 on to a special hook (a **belaying pin**)

belch /beltʃ/ v **1** [I] (of a person) to pass gas noisily from the stomach through the mouth **2** [T (OUT)] to throw out with force or in large quantities: *factory chimneys belching (out) smoke* — **belch** *n*: *He gave a loud belch.*

be-lea-guer /bɪˈliːgə/ v [T *usu. pass.*] *fml* **1** to surround with an army so as to prevent escape; **BESIEGE**: *a beleaguered city* **2** to worry and annoy continuously; **HARASS**: *beleaguered parents*

Bel-fast /ˌbelˈfɑːst, ˈbelfɑːst||ˈbelfæst/ the capital city of Northern Ireland. Belfast is often mentioned in the newspapers because of the bombs and shootings there —see also **TROUBLES** —and see colour map on page 818

bel-fry /ˈbelfri/ *n* a tower for a bell, esp. on a church —see picture at **CHURCH**, and see also **be/have bats in the bel-fry** (BAT³ (2))

Bel-gian /ˈbeldʒən/ *n, adj* (a person who comes from, or whose parents come) from Belgium: *Belgian chocolate* | *the Belgian foreign minister*

Bel-gium /ˈbeldʒəm/ a country in NW Europe; capital Brussels; population 9,932,000 (1989)

Bel-grade /belˈgreɪd/ the capital city of Yugoslavia and Serbia

Bel-gra-no Af-fair /belˈgrɑːnəʊ əˈfeə/ [*the*] a political disagreement about the British Government's order to sink an Argentinian ship called the *General Belgrano* during the Falklands War of 1982.

Bel-gra-via /belˈgreɪviə/ an expensive part of W central London where there are many foreign embassies (**EMBASSY**)

be-lie /bɪˈlaɪ/ v [T] *fml* **1** to give a false idea of: *Her smile belied her true feelings of displeasure.* **2** to show (hopes, promises, etc.) to be false or mistaken: *The poor sales of the product belied our high hopes for it.*

be-lief /bɪˈliːf/ *n* **1** [S;U (in)] the feeling that something is true or that something really exists: (a) *belief in God* [+*that*] *It's my belief that (=I believe that) her death was not an accident.* | *She started taking money from her employer, in the mistaken belief that she would not be discovered.* | *His story is beyond belief.* (=too strange to be believed) —compare **DISBELIEF**, **UNBELIEF** **2** [S;U (in)] a feeling that someone or something is good or can be depended on; trust or confidence: *The failure of the operation has shaken my belief (=weakened my trust) in doctors.* **3** [C] an idea which is considered true, often one which is part of a system of ideas: *religious/political beliefs* —see also **to the best of one's belief** (**BEST**³ (10))

be-lie-va-ble /bɪˈliːvəbəl/ *adj* that can be believed —see also **UNBELIEVABLE** —**bly adv**

be-lieve /bɪˈliːv/ v [*not in progressive forms*] **1** [T] to consider to be true, honest, or real: *You can't believe anything she says.* | *The police didn't believe him/his account of the accident.* | *I asked my boss for a month's holiday and, believe it or not, she agreed!* | *“He says he's given up smoking.” “Don't you believe it — I saw him having a cigarette only ten minutes ago!”* [+*(that)*] *It's hard to believe that she's only 25.* | *I can't believe (=I'm extremely surprised) he's getting married after all these years.* | *He said I needed a face-lift — would/can you believe it!* (=expresses surprise or shock) | *He tore up the contract and stormed out — I could hardly believe my eyes!* (=I was extremely surprised). —see **CAN (USAGE)**, **DISBELIEVE (USAGE)**, and see also **make believe** (**MAKE**¹) **2** [T] to hold as an opinion; think; suppose: [+*(that)*] *I believe*

they're getting married. | *“Has he arrived yet?” “I believe so.”* | *According to the poll, 65% of the public believes the President's economic policies are right.* [+*obj+to-v*] *The banks are widely believed to be planning a cut in interest rates.* | *The jury believed her to be innocent.* **3** [I] to have a firm religious faith

believe in sbdy./sthg. phr v [T] **1** to think that (something) exists: *Do you believe in fairies/magic?* **2** to have faith or trust in: *Christians believe in Jesus.* | *I don't believe in astrology.* **3** to have confidence in the value of: *I don't believe in all these so-called health foods.* [+*v-ing*] *He believes in taking plenty of exercise.*

be-liev-er /bɪˈliːvə/ *n* **1** a person who has faith, esp. religious faith —opposite **unbeliever** **2** [+*in*] a person who believes in (something or perhaps someone): *I'm a great believer in fresh air as a cure for illness.*

Be-li-sha bea-con /bəˈliːʃə ˈbiːkən/ also **beacon** — *n* (in Britain) a flashing orange light on a post that marks a street crossing place (a **ZEBRA CROSSING**) for walkers

be-lit-tle /bɪˈlɪtl/ v [T] *fml* to cause to seem small or unimportant; **DISPARAGE**: *Don't belittle yourself/your efforts.*

Be-lize /bəˈliːz/ a country in Central America on the Caribbean Sea, which was a British COLONY until its independence in 1981; capital Belmopan; population 178,000 (1989)

bell /bel/ *n* **1** a round hollow metal object, usu. open-ended which makes a ringing sound when struck, or an electrical instrument which makes a similar sound: *church bells* | *a bicycle bell* | *a doorbell* —see picture at **BICYCLE**

► **CULTURAL NOTE** Many Christian churches have bells, and these are rung on Sundays, to tell people that the church service is about to begin. They are also rung, often making pleasant tunes, when people are getting married in a church. A single bell is rung repeatedly to show that someone has died. ◀

2 [*usu. sing.*] the sound of a bell, esp. as a signal or warning: *the dinner bell* **3** something shaped like a bell, hollow and widening towards the end: *the bell of a flower/of a musical instrument* —see picture at **BRASS** **4** **Ask not for whom the bell tolls, it tolls for thee** *quote* a slightly changed phrase from a work by John Donne, used when saying that every person should feel involved in the misfortunes of others **5** **give someone a bell** BrE *infml* to telephone someone —see also **DIVING BELL**, **ring a bell** (**RING**³), **as sound as a bell** (**SOUND**³)

Bell, Al-ex-an-der Gra-ham /ˌæliɡˈzɑːndəˈr ˈgreɪəm||-ˈzæn-/ (1847–1922) a Scottish scientist and inventor who lived in the US, best known for inventing the telephone in 1876. He also started the Bell Telephone Company.

bel-la-don-na /ˌbeləˈdɒnə||-ˈdɑːnə/ *n* [U] **1** **DEADLY NIGHTSHADE** **2** a drug, used in medicine, obtained from this plant

Bel-la-my /ˈbeləmi/, **David** (1933–) an English scientist who often appears on British television and is known for his knowledge of plants and concern about the protection of the natural world

bell-bot-toms /ˈbɛlˌbɒtəm/ *n* [P] trousers with legs that become wider at the bottom. Bell-bottoms were very fashionable in the 1960s, but are not considered fashionable now. —see **PAIR (USAGE)**

bell-boy /ˈbelbɔɪ/ also **bell-hop** /ˈbelhɒp||-hɑːp/ AmE — *n* a messenger or PORTER in a hotel or club

belle /bel/ *n* a popular and attractive girl or woman: *the belle of the ball* (=the prettiest girl at the dance)

Belle Dame Sans Mer-ci /ˌbel ˈdɑːm sɑːn meəˈsiː||-meər-/ *La* the title of one of the best known poems of John Keats which describes a KNIGHT who falls in love with a beautiful, magical woman

belles-let-tres /ˌbel ˈletrə/ *n* [U] Fr literature that is of value for its beauty rather than for its practical importance

Belisha beacon



bel-li-cose /'belɪkəʊs/ *adj fml* warlike; ready to quarrel or fight —**cosity** /,belɪ'kɒsɪti/ -'kɑːs-/ *n* [U]

bel-lig-er-ent /bɛlɪ'dʒərənt/ *adj* **1** angry and ready to fight; AGGRESSIVE: *a belligerent person/attitude* —compare PUGNACIOUS **2** [A] *tech* (esp. of a country) at war —**ency**, **-ence** *n* [U]

belligerent² *n tech* a person or country that is at war

Bel-li-ni /be'liːni/, **Ja-co-po** /'jækəpəʊ/ 'jɑː-/ (?1400–?1470) a Venetian painter. His two sons **Gentile Bellini** (?1429–1507) and **Giovanni Bellini** (?1430–1516) were also painters and trained by him.

bell jar /'bɛl ˌjɑː/ *n* a large bottle made of thick glass, used to protect something inside it, or in scientific EXPERIMENTS —see picture at LABORATORY

Bell La-bor-a-to-ries /'bɛl ˌlæb ˌɔːrɪz/ ||'bɛl ˌlæb ˌɔːrɪz/ *infml* a group of laboratories (LABORATORY) in the US where scientists have made many important discoveries and developments in science and TECHNOLOGY. It is thought quite difficult to get a job there, and a mark of great success for any scientist who does.

Bel-loc /'belɒk/ -'ɑːk/, **Hi-la-ire** /hɪ'leə/ (1870–1953) an English writer best known for his humorous poems

bel-low /'beləʊ/ *v* **1** [I] to make the loud deep hollow sound typical of a BULL **2** [I (with); T (OUT)] to shout (something) in a deep voice: *to bellow with pain/bellow out orders* —**bellow** *n*

Bellow, Saul /sɔːl/ (1915–) an American writer, born in Canada, who won the Nobel Prize for literature in 1976. His many well-known NOVELS include *The Adventures of Augie March* and *Herzog*.

bel-lows /'beləʊz/ *n bellows* [C+*sing./pl. v*] an instrument used for supplying a stream of air (e.g. to make a fire burn more quickly or to make an organ produce sound) —see PAIR (USAGE)

bell pep-per /'bɛl ˌpep ˌpə/ *n AmE* for PEPPER¹ (2)

Bell's /belz/ *n* [U] *tdmk* a kind of popular Scottish WHISKY

bel-ly¹ /'beli/ *n* **1** *infml* a the part of a person's or animal's body, between the chest and the legs, which contains the stomach, INTESTINES, etc.; ABDOMEN **b** the stomach: *a full belly* —see picture at HORSE **2** a surface or object curved or round like this part of the body: *the belly of the plane/of a violin* **3** -**bellied** /belɪd/ having a belly of the stated type: *pot-bellied*

belly² *v*

belly out *phr v* [I; T (=belly sthg. ↔ out)] to (cause to) swell or become full: *The wind bellied out the sail.* | *The sail bellied out in the wind.*

bel-ly-ache¹ /'beli-eɪk/ *n* **1** [C; U] an ache in the belly **2** [C] *sl*, often *derog* a complaint, esp. about something unimportant: *I'm sick of listening to your bellyaches.*

bellyache² *v* [I (about)] *sl*, often *derog* to complain repeatedly, esp. about something unimportant: *Stop bellyaching and get on with the job!*

belly but-ton /'bɛl ˌbʊt ˌn/ *n infml* a small mark or sunken place in the middle of the stomach; NAVEL

belly dance /'bɛl ˌdɑːns/ *n* a dance of Eastern origin, performed by a woman using movements of the belly and HIPS —**dancer** *n*

belly flop /'bɛl ˌfɒp/ *n infml* a DIVE (=an act of jumping head first into water), in which the front of the body falls flat against the water

bel-ly-ful /'belɪfʊl/ *n* [S (of)] *infml* an amount that is more than one can bear: *I've had a bellyful of your complaints.*

belly-land-ing /'bɛl ˌlændɪŋ/ *n infml* an act of landing a plane without use of the landing equipment

belly laugh /'bɛl ˌlɑːf/ *n infml* a deep full laugh, as if coming from the belly

Bel-mont Stakes /,belmɒnt 'steɪks/ -maɪnt-/ [*the*] a race for three-year-old horses held in the state of New York —see also TRIPLE CROWN

be-long /bɪ'lon/ ||bɪ'lon/ *v* [I+*adv/prep*] to be in the right place or situation: *That chair belongs in the other room.* | *I don't really feel I belong here.* | “Does this book belong here?” “No, it belongs with the dictionaries on the top shelf.” | *Put it back where it belongs.*

belong to sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T no pass.] **1** to be the property of: *That dictionary belongs to me.* | (fig.) *The credit for this success belongs to the President.* **2** to be a member of, or be connected with: *What party do you belong to?*

be-long-ings /bɪ'lonɪŋz/ ||bɪ'lonɪŋ-/ *n* [P] those things which belong to one, which are one's property: *She lost all her belongings in the fire.*

Bel-o-rus-sia /,beləʊ'rʌʃə/ also **Byelorussia** — a country in E Europe bordered by Poland, Latvia, Lithuania, Russia, and Ukraine; capital Minsk; population 10,200,000 (1989)

be-lov-ed /bɪ'ləvɪd/ *n, adj* (a person who is) dearly loved: *beloved by/of her friends* | *His beloved wife died.* | (*usu. humor*) *It was a gift from my beloved.* (=from my wife, husband, etc.) —see LOVE (USAGE); see also **dearly beloved** (DEARLY (3))

be-low¹ /bɪ'ləʊ/ *adv* **1** in a lower place, on a lower level, or at a lower position: *I live on the fifth floor; she lives on the floor below.* | *We looked down from the mountain to the valley below.* | *officers of the rank of captain and below* | *children of seven and below* (=younger) —opposite **above** —compare BENEATH¹, UNDERNEATH¹ **2** under the surface: *The captain told the sailors to go below.* (=to a lower DECK of the ship) **3** on a later page or lower on the same page: *See p.85 below.* | *The information below was compiled by our correspondent.* —opposite **above** **4** lit on Earth rather than in heaven: “My words fly up, my thoughts remain below. Words without thoughts never to heaven go.” (Shakespeare, *Hamlet*) **5** *infml* (of a temperature) lower than zero: *working in temperatures of 20° below.*

below² *prep* in a lower place than or on a lower level than: *a skirt that reaches to below the knee* | *a mile below the village* | *just below the surface of the water* | *children below the age of seven* (=younger than seven) | *A captain is below a general.* (=lower in rank) | *His work is well below* (=much less than) *average.* | *families living below the official poverty line* | *Industrial production is still way below* (=very much lower than) *its 1982 level.* —see UNDER (USAGE); compare BENEATH², UNDER¹

Bel-sen /'belsən/ a CONCENTRATION CAMP in N Germany during the Second World War near a village of the same name

belt¹ /belt/ *n* **1** a band worn around the waist, to support clothing, as a decoration, etc.: *a leather belt* **2** a circular band of leather or other material used for driving a machine or for moving things from one place to another (e.g. in an industrial process) —see also FAN BELT, CONVEYER BELT **3** (*often cap.*) an area that has a particular quality or part: *the stockbroker belt* | *the Corn/Cotton Belt* (=where corn/cotton is the chief crop) —see also BIBLE BELT, COMMUTER BELT, GREEN BELT **4** *infml* an act of hitting someone hard; powerful blow **5** **below the belt** *infml* unkind in an unfair way: *That remark was a bit below the belt.* | *an unfair remark that hit him below the belt* **6** **under one's belt** achieved or finished: *Once you have a degree under your belt, you'll find it easier to get a job.* —see also BLACK BELT, LIFE BELT, SEAT BELT, **tighten one's belt** (TIGHTEN)

belt² *v* **1** [T (UP)] to fasten with a belt: *She belted (up) her raincoat.* **2** [T] to hit (as if) with a belt; THRASH: *He gave the boy a real belting.* **3** [T] *infml* to hit very hard, esp. with the hand: *I belted him in the eye.* | *The tennis player belted the ball right out of the court.* **4** [I+*adv/prep*] *sl*, esp. BrE to travel fast: *belting along/down the motorway* **belt** sthg. ↔ **out** *phr v* [T] *infml* to sing loudly: *to belt out a song*

belt up *phr v* [I *usu. imperative*] BrE *sl* to stop talking or making a noise: *If you don't belt up I'll throw you out.*

Bel-tane /'belteɪn/ *n* an ancient celebration on May 1st when fires were built (**Beltane fires**) and the cattle brought to them to guard against illness in the coming year

belt-ed /'beltɪd/ *adj* provided with a belt: *a belted raincoat*

belt-way /'beltweɪ/ *n AmE* for RING ROAD

Be-lu-shi /bə'lʊʃi/, **John** (1949–82) an American actor and COMEDIAN, best known for the television programme *Saturday Night Live* and films such as *National Lampoon's Animal House* and *The Blues Brothers*. He died of taking too many drugs.

be-moan /bɪ'məʊn/ *v* [T] *fml* to express sorrow or disappointment because of: *He bemoaned his bitter fate.* | *She bemoaned the lack of money for her new project.*

be-mused /bɪ'mjuːzd/ *adj* unable to think or understand properly; confused: *a bemused expression* | *bemused by/with all the questions*

ben /ben/ *n* ScotE (often cap. as part of a name) a mountain or hill: *Ben Nevis*

bench¹ /bentʃ/ *n* 1 [C] a long usu. wooden seat for two or more people, esp. one used outdoors: *a park bench* 2 [the] a judge or the seat where a judge sits in court: *to speak from the bench* | *The bench declared...* 3 [the+sing./pl. v] judges as a group: *What does/do the bench feel about this?* | *He retired from the bench in 1982.* 4 [C] a long heavy worktable: *a carpenter's bench* 5 a seat on which members of a sports team sit when they are not playing: *The manager was shouting instructions from the bench.*

bench² *v* [T] AmE to remove from a game for a short period because of breaking the rules or because of poor performance: *Mr Morris benched me for taking food into the playground.* | *Hershiser may be benched for the next few games because of shoulder problems.*

Bench-ley /'bentʃli/, **Rob-ert Charles** /'rɒbət tʃɑːlz/ || 'rɑːbərt tʃɑːrlz/ (1889–1945) a humorous American writer, EDITOR, theatre critic and actor who worked on the magazines *Vanity Fair* and *The New Yorker*

bench mark /'bentʃ mɑːk/ *n* 1 a mark made on something fixed at a point of known height, from which heights and distances can be measured, esp. in surveying (SURVEY¹ (3)) 2 something which can be used as a standard by which other things are judged or measured: *The new salary deal for railway workers will be a bench mark for pay settlements in the public sector.* | *The new software package establishes several benchmarks for other spreadsheet manufacturers.*

bend¹ /bend/ *v* **bent** /bent/ 1 [T] to force into a curve, angle, or sloping position, away from a straight or upright position: *to bend the wire* | *to bend one's head in worship* | *an old woman who was bent down with age* | *He pleaded with her on bended knee.* (=kneeling) | (fig.) *I think we can bend the rules* (=let them be broken slightly) *on this occasion.* 2 [I] to have or take on a curved shape or sloping position: *This wire bends easily.* | *The branches bent in the wind.* | *I bent down to pick up the box from the floor.* | (fig.) *They refused to bend to the hijackers' demands.* | *I talked to her for an hour but I couldn't get her to bend* (=change her mind). 3 [T+obj+adv/prep] to direct (one's efforts): *She bent her mind to the job.* 4 **bend over backwards** to make every possible effort to be helpful 5 **bend someone's ear** *infml* to talk to someone, esp. about something that is worrying one —see also BENT

bend² *n* 1 a curved part, esp. in a road or stream: *a bend in the road/river* 2 an act of bending: *forward bends to stretch the spine* 3 **around/round the bend** *infml*, often humor mad: *This pink wallpaper would drive/send me around/round the bend.* | *That old man next door must be/have gone round the bend* — *he's been cutting the grass with a pair of scissors!*

bend-er /'bendə/ *n* [S] *infml* a wild period of uncontrolled drinking: *After he got his exam results, he went on a bender for two days.*

bends /bendz/ *n* [the+sing./pl. v] a painful and occasionally fatal condition caused by gas in the tubes through which blood flows, suffered esp. by deep-sea DIVERS who come to the surface too quickly

be-neath¹ /bɪ'niːθ/ *adv fml* 1 in or to a lower position; below: *We looked down from the plane at the fields spread out beneath.* 2 directly under; UNDERNEATH —see UNDER (USAGE); compare BELOW¹

beneath² *prep* 1 *fml* in or to a lower position than; below; directly under, esp. so as to be covered or sheltered by: *The ship sank beneath the waves.* | *a village beneath the hills* | *to feel the sand beneath one's feet* 2 lower than in rank, social position, etc.: *She was very contemptuous of those beneath her.* 3 not suitable to; not worthy of: *Such behaviour is beneath you/beneath contempt.* —see UNDER (USAGE), and compare BELOW²

ben-e-dic-tine /,benɪ'dɪktɪn/ *n* [U] (often cap.) a strong alcoholic drink (LIQUEUR) first made by members of the Benedictine order, usu. drunk from a small glass after a meal

Ben-e-dic-tine /,benɪ'dɪktɪn/ *n* a member of a Christian religious order of MONKS obeying the rules of Saint Benedict

ben-e-dic-tion /,benɪ'dɪkʃən/ *n* (a prayer or religious service giving) a blessing

ben-e-fac-tion /,benɪ'fæksən/ *n fml* 1 [U] doing good or giving money for a good purpose 2 [C] money so given

ben-e-fac-tor /'benɪ,fæktə/ | **ben-e-fac-tress** /-trɪs/fem. — *n* a person who does good or who gives money for a good purpose —compare MALEFACTOR

ben-e-fice /'benɪfɪs/ *n* the pay and position of the Christian priest of a PARISH

be-nef-i-cent /bɪ'nefɪsənt/ *adj fml* doing good; kind or generous —**cence** *n* [U] —**ly** *adv*

ben-e-fi-cial /,benɪ'fɪʃəl/ *adj* [(to)] (esp. of an action or event) producing favourable effects or useful results: *His holiday has had a beneficial effect.* | *The fall in prices will be beneficial to small businesses.* —**ly** *adv*

ben-e-fi-ci-ary /,benɪ'fɪʃəri/ | -'fɪʃəri/ *n* [(of)] the receiver of a benefit or advantage, esp. of money or property: *People on high incomes will be the main beneficiaries of these changes in the tax laws.* | *His eldest son was named in his will as the chief beneficiary.* (=who would receive his property when he died)

ben-e-fit¹ /'benɪfɪt/ *n* 1 [U] anything that brings help, advantage, or profit: *She has had the benefit of a first-class education.* | *For the benefit of those people who arrived late, I'll just go over the plan again.* | *My holiday wasn't of much benefit to me.* | *Let's give this new plan the benefit of the doubt.* (=the right to favourable consideration until we know whether it is good or bad) 2 [C; U] in Britain, the general money provided by the government to people who need it, esp. to those who are sick or unemployed: *Are you entitled to unemployment benefit?* | *child/housing benefit* 3 [C] an event, esp. a theatrical performance, to raise money for some person or special purpose: *a benefit for old actors* | *a benefit concert to raise money for the famine victims* | *a benefit match/year for a veteran player* 4 [U] AmE for RELIEF (3) —see also CHILD BENEFIT, FRINGE BENEFIT

benefit² *v* 1 [T] (esp. of an action or event) to be useful, profitable, or helpful to: *It's an expensive investment but it will benefit the company in the long run.* 2 [I (from)] to gain advantage; receive benefit (as a result of something): *I can see the advantage of this for you, but how will I benefit?* | *Who is most likely to benefit from/by the old lady's death?* | *These small businesses have benefited greatly from the fall in interest rates.*

benefit of cler-gy /,... 'lɜː/ *n* [U] old use the special rights of priests in the law

Benefits A-gen-cy /'... ,.../ *n* [the] a British government organization which pays money to people who are unemployed, old, or ill —see also DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SECURITY

Be-ne-lux /'benɪləks/ *n* also **Benelux coun-tries** /'... ,.../, **Low Countries**— the countries of Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg considered as a group

Ben-et-ton /'benɪtən/ one of a group of shops selling JUMPERS and other clothes

be-nev-o-lent /bɪ'nevələnt/ *adj* having or showing a wish to do good and help others —compare MALEVOLENT —**lence** *n* [U] —**ly** *adv*

Ben-gal /,ben'gɔːl/ the NE part of the Indian SUBCONTINENT which is divided between India and Bangladesh

Ben-ga-li /ben'gɔːli/ *n* 1 [C] a person who comes from, or whose parents come from Bengal 2 [U] the language spoken by the people of Bangladesh or West Bengal in India

Ben-Gu-ri-on /ben 'guəriən/, **David** (1886–1973) an Israeli politician who led the Zionist movement to establish a Jewish state and was Israel's first PRIME MINISTER

Ben Hur /,ben 'hɜː/ an HISTORICAL NOVEL by Lewis Wallace set in the time of Jesus Christ. It was made into a film in 1959, in which Charlton Heston played the main character. —see picture at Charlton HESTON

Ben-i-dorm /'benɪdɔːm/ | -ɔːrm/ a town on the Spanish Mediterranean coast visited by tourists from many European countries and popular with British people as a place to go on a PACKAGE HOLIDAY

be-night-ed /bɪ'naɪtɪd/ *adj lit* completely without knowledge or understanding, esp. of moral principles: *benighted minds* —**ly** *adv*

be-nign /bɪ'nain/ *adj* 1 rather *fml* kind and gentle: *a benign nature/smile* 2 *med* (of a disease) not dangerous to life; not MALIGNANT (2): *a benign tumour*

— ~ly *adv*: to smile benignly — ~ity /bɪˈnɪɡnɪti/ *n* [U] *fml*

Be-nin /beˈnɪn||bəˈnɪn/, **the People's Republic** of a country in W Africa which was a French COLONY called Dahomey until independence in 1960; capital Porto Novo; population 4,591,000 (1989)

Ben-je-did /ˌbenzəˈdɪd/, **Chad-li** /ˈtʃædli/ (1929–) the president of Algeria from 1979 until 1992, when he left office after his party won little support in elections

Benn /ben/, **Tony** (1925–) a British politician who was a member of the Labour governments under Harold Wilson and James Callaghan and is known for his strong left-wing opinions. His full name is **Anthony Wedgwood Benn**, and he was born with the title of **Viscount Stansgate**, but gave up his title so that he could be a member of the House of Commons.

Bennet, Arnold (1867–1931) an English writer best known for his NOVELS about the five POTTERY towns in the Midlands

Ben-nett /ˈbenɪt/, **Al-an** /ˈælən/ (1934–) a British writer and actor from the N of England, best known for his many humorous television plays

Ben-nett, Lou-ise /luːˈɪz/ (1929–) a Jamaican poet and actress

Ben Ne-vis /benˈnevɪs/ a mountain in Scotland which is the highest mountain in Britain (1343 m) —compare SCAPELL PIKE and see colour map on page 818

Ben-ny /ˈbeni/, **Jack** (1894–1974) an American COMEDIAN who started in the theatre and later had his own very popular radio and television shows. He pretended to be a MEAN person and many of his jokes were about this.

Ben-son and Hed-ges /ˌbensən ənd ˈhedʒɪz/ *tdmk* (a British company which makes) a kind of cigarette: *A packet of Benson and Hedges, please.*

bent¹ /bent/ *past tense and participle of BEND*: a piece of bent wire

bent² *adj* 1 *BrE sl* dishonest, esp. by allowing oneself to be influenced by money or gifts (BRIBES): *a bent copper* (=policeman) —opposite **straight** 2 [F+on/upon] with one's mind set; completely determined: *She's bent on a career on the stage/bent on becoming an actress.* 3 *old-fash derog* HOMOSEXUAL

bent³ *n* [(for)] a natural tendency or special natural skill (in): *He has a bent for art/an artistic bent.*

Ben-tham /ˈbenθəm/, **Jer-e-my** /ˈdʒerəmi/ (1748–1832) an English PHILOSOPHER (1) who supported the idea that one should act according to what would do the most good for the most people

Ben-tine /ˈbentɪn/, **Mi-chael** /ˈmaɪkəl/ (1921–) an English COMEDY (2) performer of the 1950s, '60s and '70s, first with the Goons and later in his own television programmes

Bent-ley /ˈbentli/ *n tdmk* a very expensive British car often driven by DIPLOMATS and politicians

Bent-sen /ˈbentsən/, **Lloyd** (1921–) a US Senator who became Secretry of the Treasury under President Clinton in 1993

be-numbed /bɪˈnʌmd/ *adj* having all sense of feeling taken away, esp. by cold

Ben-ze-drine /ˈbenzɪdriːn/ *n* [U] *tdmk* a variety of the drug AMPHETAMINE

ben-zene /ˈbenziːn, benˈziːn/ also **ben-zol** /ˈbenzɒl||-zəl/—*n* [U] a colourless liquid (C₆H₆) which is obtained chiefly from coal. Benzene burns quickly and is used to make certain types of engine run, and in making various chemical products. —see picture at DIAGRAM

ben-zine /ˈbenziːn, benˈziːn/ *n* [U] a mixture of liquids obtained from PETROLEUM that burns quickly and is used to make certain types of engine run, and for cleaning

Be-o-wulf /ˈbeɪəʊwʊlf/ a very old (eighth century) EPIC (=long poem) about the adventures and fortunes of Beowulf

be-queath /bɪˈkwɪð, bɪˈkwɪθ/ *v* [T (to)] *fml* to give to others after death: *Her collection of paintings was bequeathed to the National Gallery when she died.* [+obj(i)+obj(d)] *His father bequeathed him a fortune.*

be-quest /bɪˈkwest/ *n fml* money or property that is bequeathed: *a bequest of £5000 to his daughter*

be-rate /bɪˈreɪt/ *v* [T (for)] *fml* to speak to angrily because of a fault; REBUKE

Ber-ber /ˈbɜːbəː||ˈbɜːr-/ *n* 1 [C] one of the people of NW Africa who lived there before the Arab CONQUESTS of the 7th century. Berbers live today mainly in Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia. 2 [U] one of the languages of these people

be-reave /bɪˈriːv/ *v* **bereaved** or **bereft** /bɪˈreft/ [T (of) *usu. pass.*] *fml* to take away, esp. by death: *He was bereaved (of his wife).* | *bereft of all hope*

▷ **USAGE Bereaved** is used only of someone who has lost a close relative or friend through death: *He was bereaved (of his wife).* **Bereft** is very formal, and is *usu.* used in poetry or with abstract nouns: *He was bereft of all hope/ideas/emotion/comfort/etc.* ◁

be-reaved /bɪˈriːvd/ *adj, n* **bereaved** *fml* (someone) whose close relative has just died: *a bereaved mother* | *The bereaved was/were grief-stricken.*

be-reave-ment /bɪˈriːvmənt/ *n* [C;U] the state or an occasion of having been bereaved: *saddened by illness and bereavement* | *a series of bereavements*

be-ret /ˈberɪ||bəˈreɪ/ *n* a round *usu.* woollen cap with a tight headband and a soft full flat top

Ber-ge-rac /ˈbɜːʒræk||ˈbɜːr-/ , **Cy-ra-no de** /ˈsɪrənəʊ də, sɪˈrɑːnəʊ-/ (1619–55) a French writer and soldier known for fighting DUELS and for his very large nose. His name is well known as the title of a play about him by Edmond Rostand.

Berg-man¹ /ˈbɜːgmən||ˈbɜːr-/ , **Ing-mar** /ˈɪŋmɑːr/ (1918–) a Swedish film maker, whose films include *The Seventh Seal* and *Fanny and Alexander*

Bergman², **In-grid** /ˈɪŋgrɪd/ (1915–82) a Swedish actress who went to Hollywood in 1939 and became an international film star. She appeared with Humphrey Bogart in the film *Casablanca*. —see colour picture on page 685

ber-i-ber-i /ˌberiˈberi/ *n* [U] a disease of the nerves caused by lack of VITAMIN B

Be-ning Strait /ˌbeɪnɪŋ ˈstreɪt||ˌbiːr-/ [*the*] a narrow CHANNEL between Asia and N America connecting the **Bering Sea** with the Arctic Ocean

berk , **burk** /bɜːk||bɜːrk/ *n BrE sl* a fool: *You might have told me it was a formal affair — I felt a right berk in jeans and tee-shirt.*

Berke-ley /ˈbɜːkli||ˈbɜːr-/ a city in the San Francisco Bay area of California where part of the University of California is based. Berkeley was a centre of student protest during the 1960s.

Berke-ley Square /ˌbɜːkli ˈskweəː||ˌbɜːr-/ a square in London known in the 17th and 18th centuries as the home of many famous people including Robert Walpole and Clive of India

Berk-shire /ˈbɜːkʃəː||ˈbɜːr-/ a COUNTY in the S of England

Ber-lin /ˌbɜːˈlɪn||ˌbɜːr-/ a city in N Germany which was divided into East and West from 1945 until 1990 when the German Democratic Republic (East Germany) and the Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany) were reunited

Berlin, Ir-ving /ˈɜːvɪŋ||ˈɜːr-/ (1888–1989) an American songwriter who wrote many successful popular songs including *Alexander's Ragtime Band* and *White Christmas* and also many stage and film musicals

Berlin Wall /ˌˌˌ/ [*the*] a wall built in Berlin in 1961 to divide East and West Berlin, and pulled down in 1989. The wall was built by Soviet-controlled East Germany to stop people escaping from East to West. The scenes of ordinary people pulling down the Wall were seen on television around the world and the event became a symbol of freedom. —see colour picture on page 752

Ber-li-oz /ˈbeɪliəʊz||ˈbeər-/ , **Lou-is Hec-tor** /ˈluːɪː ˈhektər/ (1803–69) a French COMPOSER and CONDUCTOR

Ber-litz /ˈbɜːlɪts||ˈbɜːr-/ *tdmk* a company which has schools for teaching foreign languages in many cities in Europe and North America

Ber-mu-da /bəˈmjuːdə||bər-/ a self-governing British COLONY consisting of a group of islands in the W Atlantic Ocean

Bermuda shorts /ˌˌˌˌ/ , also **Bermudas**—*n* [P] knee-length SHORTS, *usu.* made of thin cotton material

Bermuda Tri-angle /ˌˌˌˌˌ/ [*the*] an area in the Atlantic Ocean between Bermuda, Florida, and Puerto Rico where many ships and aircraft are supposed to have mysteriously disappeared with no wrecks ever found

Ber-na-dette see SAINT BERNADETTE

Bern-hardt /'bɜːnhɑːt/ || 'bɜːrnhaɪt/, **Sa-rah** /'seərə/ (1844–1923) a famous French ACTRESS, thought of by many people as one of the best actresses ever

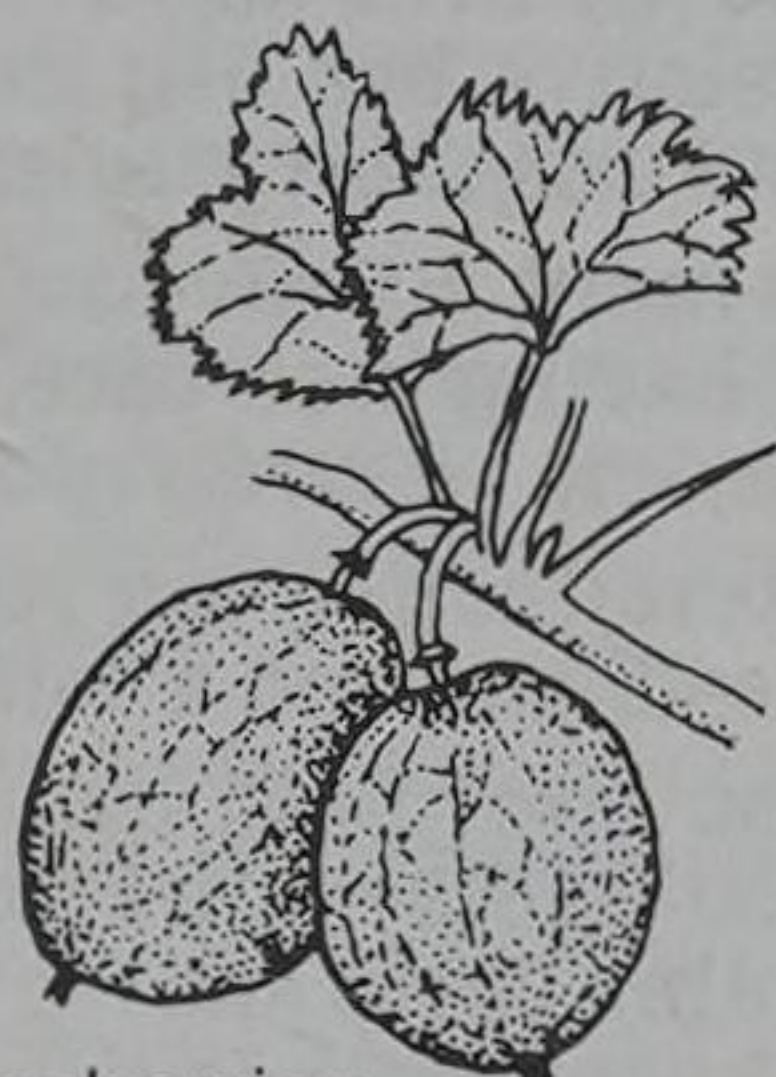
Ber-ni Inn /,bɜːni 'ɪn/ || ,bɜːr-/ *n* one of a group of restaurants in Britain providing meals for families at fairly low prices

Bern-stein /'bɜːnstɪn, -stɪn/ || 'bɜːrn-/ , **Leon-ard** /'lenəd/ || -ərd/ (1918–90) an American CONDUCTOR, COMPOSER, and piano player, famous for his popular musicals which include *West Side Story*

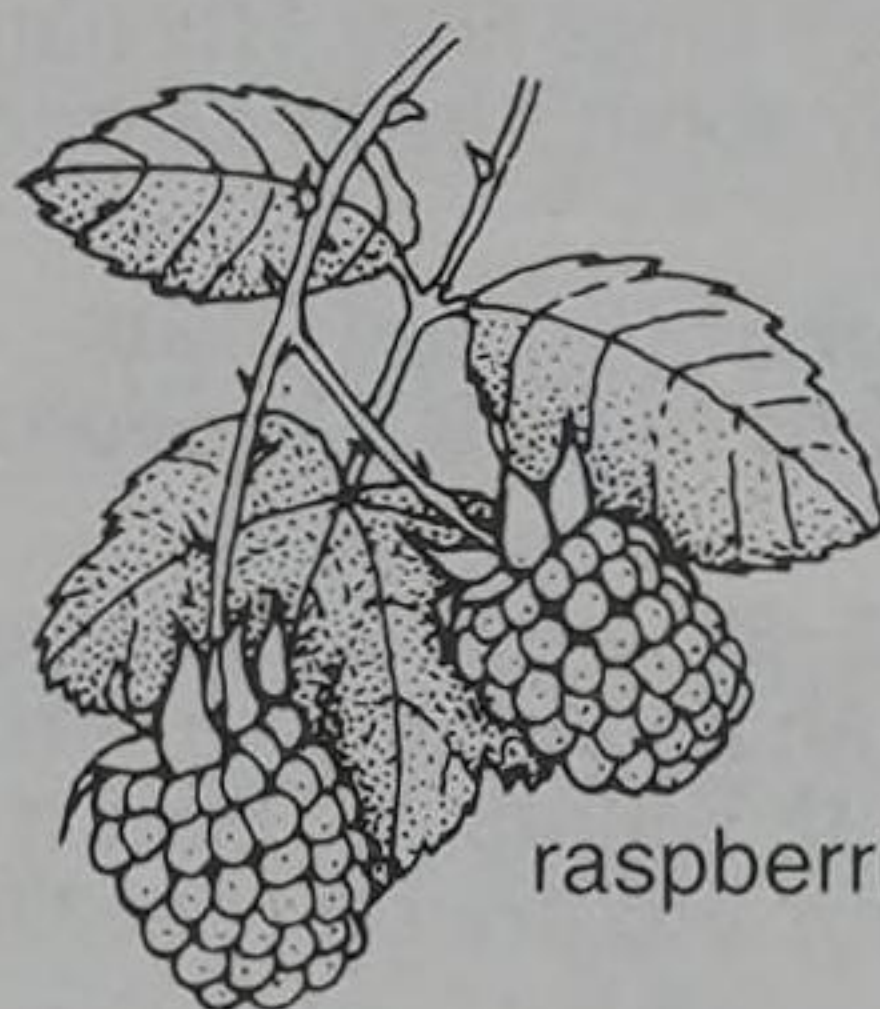
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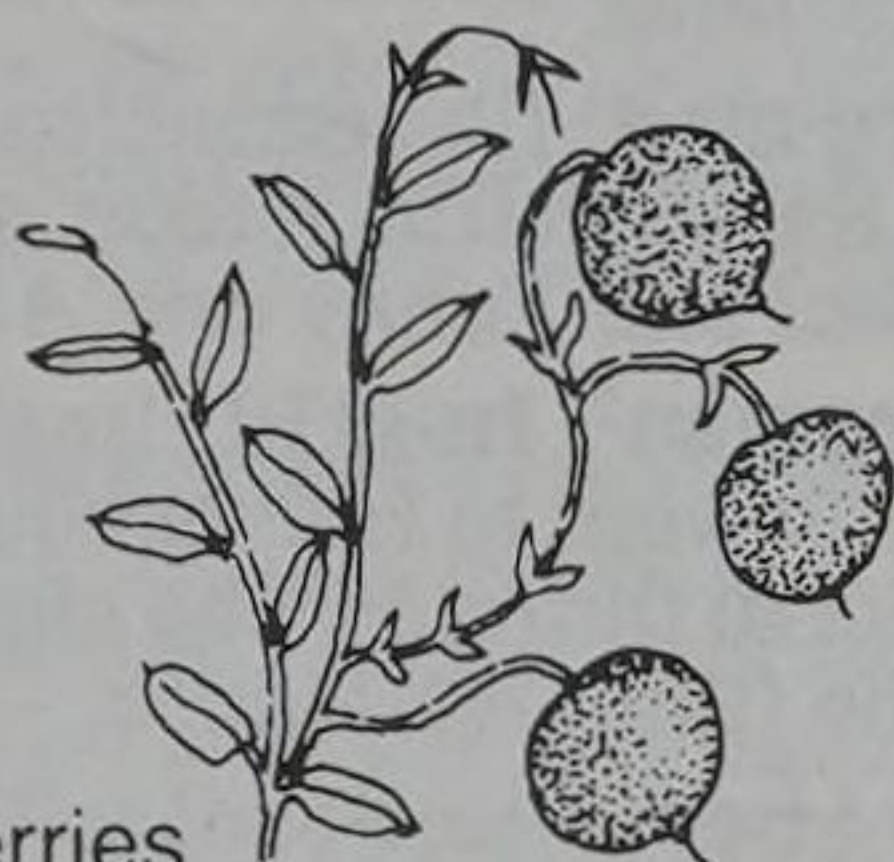
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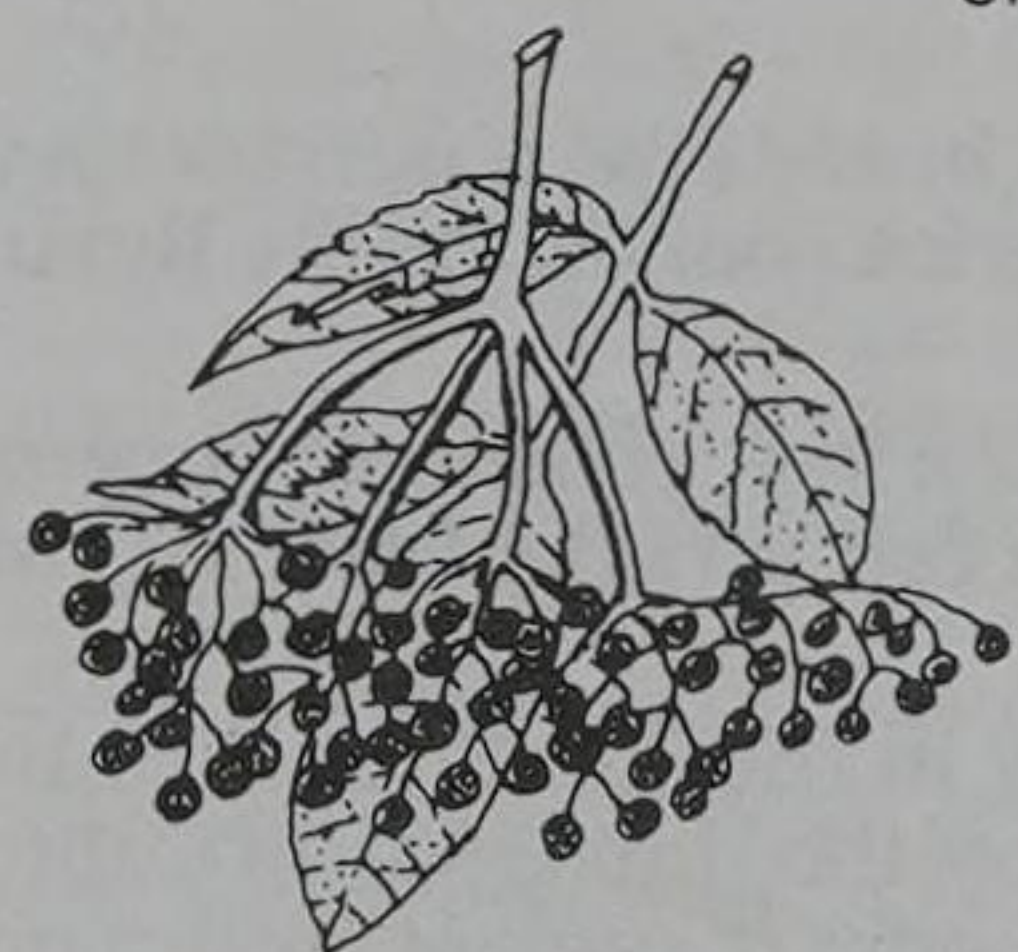
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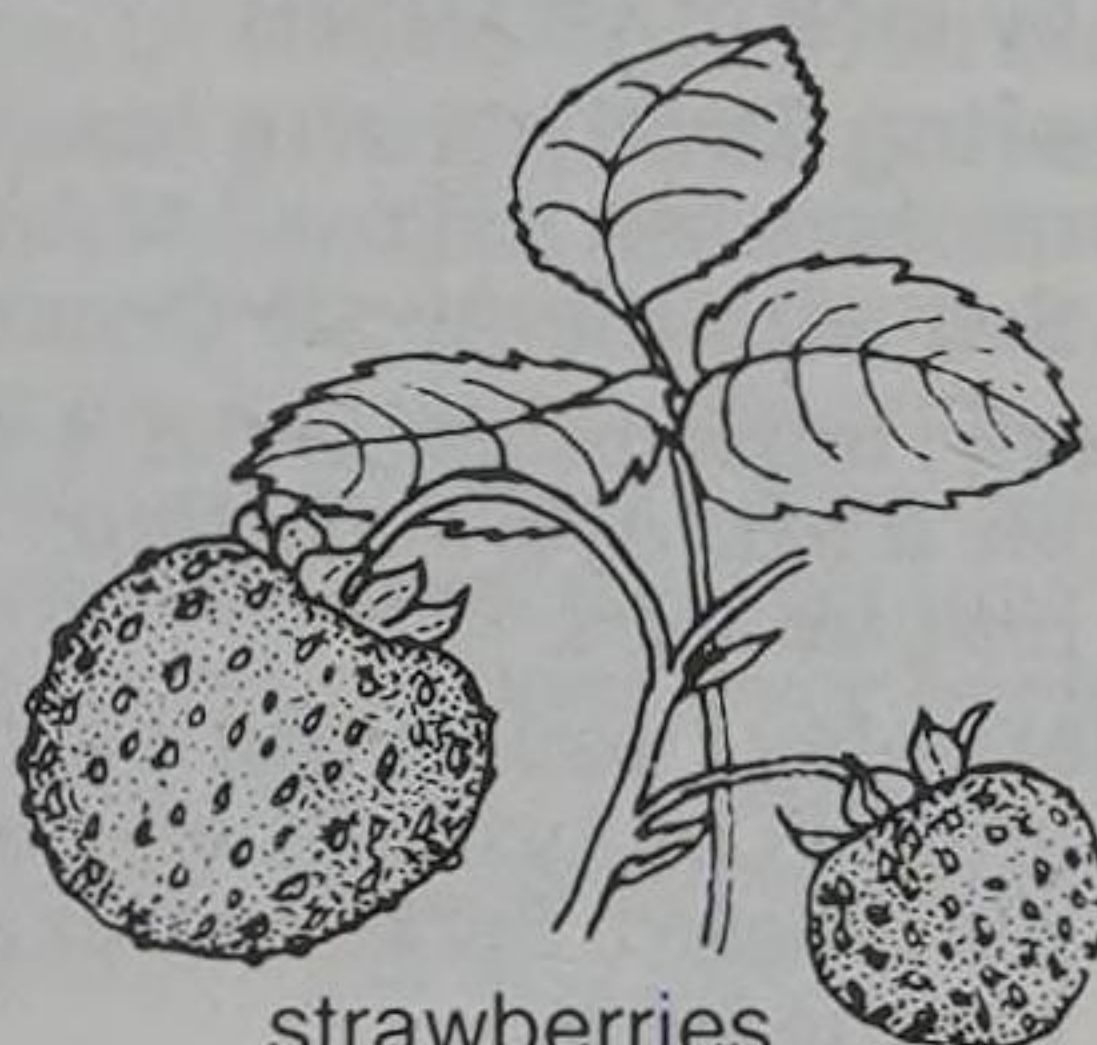
raspberries



cranberries



elderberries



strawberries

ber-ry /'beri/ *n* (often in comb.) a small soft fruit, usu. with seeds: *to pick berries* | *blackberry jam* | *a strawberry*

Berry, Chuck (1926–) an American popular music singer, GUITARIST and songwriter who influenced the Beatles, the Rolling Stones, and others

ber-serk /bɜː'sɜːk, bə- || bɜːr'sɜːrk, 'bɜːrsɜːrk/ *adj* [F] mad with violent anger: *My husband will go berserk if he finds you here.*

berth¹ /bɜːθ/ || bɜːrθ/ *n* **1** a place where a ship can stop and be tied up, as in a HARBOUR **2** a sleeping place in a ship or train; BUNK **3** old-fash, BrE infml a job **4** give someone/something a wide berth infml to stay at a safe distance from someone or something dangerous or unpleasant

berth² *v* [I;T] to come or bring into a berth: *The captain berthed his ship at midday.*

Ber-to-luc-ci /,bɜːtəʊ'luːtʃi/ || ,bɜːr-/ , **Ber-nar-do** /bə'nɑːdəʊ || bə'r'nɑːr-/ (1940–) an Italian film director whose films include *Last Tango in Paris*

Ber-wick-shire /'berɪkʃə/ a former COUNTY in SE Scotland, now part of the Borders REGION

ber-yl /'berɪl/ *n* [C;U] a usu. green precious stone

be-seech /bɪ'siːtʃ/ *v* **besought** /bɪ'sɔːt/ or **beseached** [T (of)] *fml* or *lit* to ask eagerly and anxiously: *to beseech a favour* [+obj+to-v] *I beseech you to go.*

be-seem /bɪ'siːm/ *v* [T] *fml* or *old use* to be suitable or proper for

be-set /bɪ'set/ *v* **beset**; *present participle besetting* [T (by, with)] to trouble from all directions; attack continuously: *I was beset by doubts.* | *The plan was beset with difficulties from the beginning.* | *Laziness is my besetting sin.* (=the one that most often influences me)

be-side /bɪ'saɪd/ *prep* **1** at or close to the side of; next to: *sitting beside the driver* | *a town beside the sea* **2** compared with: *This year's sales figures don't look very good beside last year's results.* **3** **beside oneself (with)** almost mad (with anger, excitement, etc.): *He was beside himself with joy when he heard he had passed the exam.* **4** **beside the point** having nothing to do with the main point or question: *Her age is beside the point: the question is, can she do the job?* —see BESIDES (USAGE)

be-sides¹ /bɪ'saɪdz/ *adv* in addition; also: *I don't want to go; besides, I'm too tired.* | *This is my best suit; I have two others besides.*

besides² *prep* as well as; in addition to: *There were three other people at the meeting besides Mr Day.* | *Besides being a professional pianist, he is also a keen amateur singer.*

▷ USAGE Compare **besides** and **except**. **Besides** means "as well as"; *Ten of us passed besides John.* (=John passed too); **except** means "but not" or "leaving out": *All of us passed except John.* (=John did not pass)◁

be-siege /bɪ'siːdʒ/ *v* [T] **1** to surround (a town, castle, etc.) with armed forces so as to prevent the people inside from getting out **2** to press all round in a crowd: *Worried relatives besieged the airline office, waiting for news of the crash.* **3** [(with)] to trouble or annoy continuously; HARASS: *We were besieged with doubts/with requests for help.*

be-smear /bɪ'smiə/ *v* [T (with)] to cover with dirty, sticky, or oily marks: *hands besmeared with dirt*

be-smirch /bɪ'smɜːtʃ/ || -ɜːrtʃ/ *v* [T] *fml* to damage (a person or their character) in the opinion of others

be-som /'bɪzəm/ *n* a brush made of sticks tied together on a long handle; BROOM (1)

be-sot-ted /bɪ'sɒtɪd/ || bɪ'saɪ-/ *adj* [F (with)] made foolish or unable to behave sensibly by strong drink or powerful feeling: *besotted with drink/love/power*

be-sought /bɪ'sɔːt/ *past tense & participle of BESEECH*

be-spat-tered /bɪ'spætəd/ || -ərd/ *adj* [(with)] marked all over with drops of liquid; spattered (SPATTER): *The windscreen of the car was so bespattered with dirt that it was difficult to see through it.*

be-speak /bɪ'spiːk/ *v* **bespoke** /bɪ'spəʊk/, **bespoken** /bɪ'spəʊkən/ [T] *fml* to show; be a sign of: *The efficiency of the organization bespoke careful planning.*

be-spec-ta-cled /bɪ'spektəkəld/ *adj fml* or *humor* wearing glasses

be-spoke /bɪ'spəʊk/ *adj esp. BrE* (of clothes) specially made to someone's measurements; MADE-TO-MEASURE — compare **off the peg** (PEG¹)

best¹ /best/ *adj* (superlative of GOOD) **1** the highest in quality, skill, or effectiveness; the most good: *the best tennis player in the world* | *the best man I ever knew* | *She's my best friend.* | *This has been the company's best year ever.* | *What's the best way to get there?* —see also SECOND BEST **2** the best part of most of: *I haven't seen her for the best part of a month.* **3** the best things in life are free an old saying

best² *adv* (superlative of WELL) **1** in the best way: *The one who does best will get the prize.* **2** to the greatest degree; most: *Tuesday would suit me best.* | *You can't argue with him — he always thinks he knows best.* | *She chose the more expensive one, for reasons best known to herself.* (=she knows why, but no one else does) | *one of our best-loved national monuments* **3** BrE as best one can as well as one can: *Do it as best you can.* **4** had best ought to; had better (BETTER²)

best³ *n* **best** **1** [the] the greatest degree of good: *Only the best is good enough for her.* | *We all want the best for our children.* | *We can't go to Spain, but perhaps it's all for the best.* (=it's a good thing really) **2** [the+C] a person or thing that is best: *Even the best of us sometimes forgets things.* | *They're all good players, but he's definitely the best of the bunch.* | *dressed in my (Sunday) best* (=my best clothes) | *He's not very cheerful (even) at the best of times.* (=when things are most favourable) **3** [S] one's best effort or best state: *I'll do/try my best to finish it on time.* | *I'm never at my best early in the morning.* | *The garden's at its best in spring.* | *I can't possibly pay you \$100 for it; \$75 is the best* (=the most) *I can offer you.* | *10.3 seconds is my personal best* (=the fastest I have ever run) *in the hundred yard dash.* **4** All the best! (used when saying goodbye) I wish you success and

happiness! **5 at best** in the most favourable conditions or according to the most favourable judgment: *This is, at best, only a temporary solution.* | *His answers were at best evasive* (=this is the most favourable thing that can be said about them), *at worst downright misleading.* **6 have/get the best of** *infml* to win or succeed at/in: *When we exchanged rooms I got the best of the bargain, because her old room was nicer.* **7 make the best of** to do as well as one can with (a thing or situation that is unsatisfactory): *We must try to make the best of things until we can afford a bigger house.* **8 make the best of a bad job** to accept, esp. in a cheerful way, bad or unsatisfactory conditions and do the best one can in the situation **9 the best of both worlds/of all possible worlds** the advantages of two different situations/of every possible situation, esp. without their disadvantages: *He lives on a farm and works in a big city, so he has the best of both worlds.* **10 to the best of one's knowledge/belief/ability** as far as one knows/believes/is able: *I will do the work to the best of my ability.* —see also **six of the best** (SIX)

best⁴ *v* [T] *old use in BrE, not unusual in AmE* to defeat: *After a long struggle, we bested them.*

Best, George (1946–) a footballer from Northern Ireland who played for Manchester United in the 1960s and is considered to be one of the greatest players ever. His career was short, and it is known that he has had a drink problem.

best be-fore date /, . ' . / *n* a date stamped onto food and drink containers, showing the date before which the product should be eaten or drunk: *There's no best before date on these beans.*

best friend /, . ' / *n* **1** the special friend that a child likes most: *Who's your best friend, Jimmy?* **2 best friends** very friendly, esp. after an argument: *They're best friends again now.*

bes-ti-al /'bestiəl||'bestʃəl/ *adj* **1** of or like an animal **2** (of human beings and their behaviour) very cruel or inhuman; BRUTAL: *bestial cruelty* — *~ly adv*

bes-ti-al-i-ty /,besti'ælɪti||,bestʃi-/ *n* [U] **1 derog** the state of being bestial **2** sexual relations between a human being and an animal

bes-ti-ar-y /'bestiəri||'bestʃizeri/ *n* a book (esp. of the Middle Ages in Europe) with information about animals that is intended to amuse people or to teach moral lessons

be-stir /bɪ'stɜːr/ *v* -rr- [T] *fml* to cause (oneself) to move quickly or become active: *We must bestir ourselves (to finish the job).*

best man /, . ' / *n* a man who helps the BRIDEGROOM at a marriage ceremony —compare BRIDESMAID, FLOWER GIRL, MATRON OF HONOUR, PAGE BOY and see also extra information on page 1406

be-stow /bɪ'stəʊ/ *v* [T (on, upon)] *fml* to give: *Several gifts were bestowed on the royal visitors.* — *~al n* [U]

be-strew /bɪ'struː/ *v* **bestrewed, bestrewn** /bɪ'struːn/ or **bestrewed** [T] *lit* **1** to lie scattered over: *Flowers bestrewed the grave of the dead soldier.* **2 [(with)]** to scatter things over (a surface); STREW: *They bestrewed the grave with flowers.*

be-stride /bɪ'straɪd/ *v* **bestrode** /bɪ'strəʊd/, **bestriden** /bɪ'strɪdn/ [T] *fml* to sit or stand on or over (a thing) with legs apart; STRADDLE: *to bestride a horse/a fence*

best-sel-ler /, . ' . / *n* **1** something (esp. a book) that sells in very large numbers **2** a writer or performer whose work sells very well —**ling adj**: *a best-selling novelist*

bet¹ /bet/ *n* **1 [(on)]** an agreement to risk money on the result of a future event, by which the person who guesses wrongly gives the money to the other person: *We had/We made a bet on the outcome of the next election.* | *to place a bet (with a bookmaker)* | *to win/lose a bet* **2** a sum of money risked in this way: *a £5 bet* **3** a future result that is expected: [+that] *My bet (=my opinion) is that she'll be well known in a few years' time.* | *It's a safe bet (=certain) that she'll turn up drunk tonight.* | *He may be very charming, but he's a bad bet for marriage.* (=he will not be a good husband) **4 infml** a plan of action: *Your best bet is to say nothing about it.* —see also **hedge one's bets** (HEDGE²)

bet² *v* **bet or betted; present participle betting** **1** [I;T (on)] to risk (money) on the result of a future event: *I bet (£5) on a horse called Silver Star, but it came in last!* [+obj(i) +obj(d)+(that)] *I'll bet you £5 that you can't do it.* **2** [T

(+obj)+that] to state confidently (what will happen or has happened); PREDICT: *I'll bet that it will rain tomorrow/ I'll bet it rains tomorrow.* | *I bet you she won't agree.* | *If there's any hard work to be done, you can bet he won't come.* | *I'll bet you didn't think I'd be back so soon.* **3 bet one's boots/bottom dollar/shirt/ass infml** to be certain: *You can bet your boots that she'll be late again.* **4 You bet sl** You can be sure; certainly: *"Will you tell her?" "You bet (I will)."*

be-ta /'bɪtə||'beɪtə/ *n* the second letter (B, β) of the Greek alphabet, sometimes used in Britain as a mark for better than average work by a student

be-take /bɪ'teɪk/ *v* **betook** /bɪ'tʊk/, **betaken** /bɪ'teɪkən/ **be-take oneself lit** to go: *He betook himself to the palace to see the king.*

be-tel /'bɪtl/ *n* [U] a leaf which is wrapped round pieces of bitter red nut (**betel nut**) and other things, and is chewed (CHEW) by people in India and Southeast Asia because it has some of the effects of a drug

bête-noire /,bet 'nwɑːr/ *n* **bêtes-noires** /,bet 'nwɑːz||-ɑːrz/ the person or thing one dislikes most

Beth-a-ny /'beθəni/ a village near Jerusalem and the Mount of Olives, in which general area a number of the important events of the New Testament took place

beth-el /'beθəl/ *n* **1 esp. BrE** a place of worship for Christian Nonconformists **2 esp. AmE (often cap.)** a place of worship for sailors

be-think /bɪ'θɪŋk/ *v* **bethought** /bɪ'θɔːt/ **bethink oneself of lit or old use** to think about; consider: *You should bethink yourself of your duty, my lord!*

Beth-le-hem /'beθlihem/ a town on the W Bank of the River Jordan, near Jerusalem, thought to be where Jesus Christ was born —see also O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

be-tide /bɪ'taɪd/ *v* [I] *lit* **1** to happen: *We shall remain friends whatever may betide.* **2 Woe betide you/him/them, etc. esp. lit or humor** You/He/They, etc. will be in trouble: *Woe betide them if they're late!*

be-times /bɪ'taɪmz/ *adv lit* early; in good time

Be-tje-man /'betʃɪmən/, **Sir John** (1906–84) an English poet who became Poet Laureate in 1972. He is known for his humorous poems about English social life and for his interest in Victorian and Edwardian ARCHITECTURE, esp. railways.

be-to-ken /bɪ'təʊkən/ *v* [T] *fml* to be a sign of: *black clouds that betoken a storm*

be-tray /bɪ'treɪ/ *v* [T (to)] **1** to be disloyal or unfaithful to: *To betray one's friends/one's principles* **2** to hand over to the power of an enemy by disloyalty: *The resistance group was betrayed (to the government) by one of its own members.* **3** to give away or make known (esp. a secret): *He betrayed the plans to enemy agents.* **4** to be a sign of (something one would like to hide); show the real feelings or intentions of: *Her trembling hands betrayed her nervousness (to him).* [+wh-] *Her expression betrayed how angry she really was.* | *He tried to seem angry, but his smile betrayed him.* — *~er n*

be-tray-al /bɪ'treɪəl/ *n* [C;U] (an example of) the act of betraying: *a betrayal of my principles*

be-troth /bɪ'trəʊð, bɪ'trəʊθ/ *v* [T (to)] *old use* to promise to marry or give in marriage: *Her father betrothed her to him at an early age.* | *a betrothed couple* | *He kissed his betrothed.* (=the woman he was betrothed to) — *~al n* [C;U]: *to celebrate their betrothal*

bet-ter¹ /'betər/ *adj* **1 (comparative of GOOD)** higher in quality, skill, or effectiveness; more good: *Their house is better than ours.* | *The sales figures are better than expected.* | *I'm worse at sums than Jean, but better at history.* | *I know a better way to do it.* | *He's no better than (=almost as bad as) a thief.* | *You'll feel all the better for a breath of fresh air.* **2** [F] (comparative of WELL) **a** improved in health: *I'm feeling a little better today.* **b** completely well again after an illness: *Now that he's better he can play football again.* **3 be better than one's word** to do more than one has promised **4 Better luck next time!** (said to encourage someone who has done badly this time in an examination, race, competition, etc.) **5 for better or for worse** a phrase from the Christian marriage service. The people getting married promise to love each other "for better or for worse" (=if things are good or bad). **6 no better than she should be old-fash euph infml** of low sexual morals **7 one's better half infml**

humor one's wife or husband **8 the better part of** more than half: *I haven't seen him for the better part of a month!* —compare WORSE¹

better² *adv* (comparative of WELL) **1** in a better way: *It works better if you put a bit of oil in.* | *He swims better than he used to.* | *You would do better* (=it would be better/wiser) *to get some professional advice.* **2** to a greater degree: *She knows the story better than I do.* | *She got the job because she was better qualified than the others.* | *He has written several novels, but he is better known for his plays.* **3 go one better (than)** *infml* to do better (than): *That was a good story, but I can go one better.* **4 had better** ought to; should: *You'd better go home now.* | *We'd better not tell him.* | *"I won't forget again, I promise."* *"You'd better not!"* —compare WORSE³

▷ **USAGE 1 Had better** is one of the most common expressions in conversation when giving firm advice about what a person *should* or *ought to* do, esp. to avoid some problem, unpleasantness or danger: *You'd better leave now before you cause any more trouble.* | *You'd better give me your telephone number in case someone wants to contact you.* A difference between **had better** on the one hand, and **should** and **ought to** on the other, is that **had better** is only used to talk about present or future time, but **should** and **ought to** can also talk about the past. We can say *You should have called me before you left.* | *She ought to have told her mother she was pregnant.* **Had better** can't be used in this way. **2 Had better** is not used to compare two courses of action. Instead we use expressions like **It would be better to**, **You'd be better to**, or **Your best plan would be to**: *"Do you think I should fly directly to Australia or break my journey in Hong Kong?"* *"It would be better to/You'd be better to/Your best plan would be to spend a few days in Hong Kong. There are so many things to see there."* ◁

better³ *n* [the] **1** a person or thing that is better: *Which is the better of these two cars?* | *There's been a change for the better* (=an improvement) *in his health.* **2 for better or (for) worse** whatever happens; whether one likes it or not **3 get the better of** to defeat (someone) or deal successfully with (a difficulty): *I wouldn't argue with her if I were you — she'll get the better of you!* —see also BETTERS; compare WORSE²

better⁴ *v fml* **1** [I;T] to (cause to) improve: *a policy aimed at bettering the lot of the poorest nations* —compare WORSEN **2** [T] to go beyond in quality; SURPASS: *This year's results are unlikely to be bettered.* **3 better oneself:** a to earn more money b to educate oneself — ~ment *n* [U]

better half /,bɛtə/ *n infml*, humor one's husband or wife: *Hello, George! Where's your better half?*

Better Homes and Gardens /,bɛtə 'həʊmz ɒnd 'gɑːdnz/ a US magazine with pictures and articles about making one's home very pleasant and pretty

betting shop /'betɪŋ ʃɒp/ *n* a place where the business of taking BETS¹ on horse races and other competitions is carried on. Betting shops are found in towns and cities in Britain.

bet-ters /'betəz/ *n* [P] people of higher rank or greater worth (than someone): *to be polite to one's elders and betters*

Betty Ford Clinic /'beti fɔːrd 'klɪnɪk/ [the] a hospital-like institution in California where rich and often famous people go for treatment of drug and alcohol ADDICTION. It is named after Betty Ford (1918–), the wife of former president Gerald Ford.

be-tween /bi'twiːn/ *prep* **1** a in or into the space or time that separates: *standing between Sue and Brian* | *It happened between five and six o'clock in the morning.* | *between five and six miles away* | *You shouldn't eat between meals.* | *I hope nothing ever comes between us.* (=separates us) **b** in the range that separates (two things or amounts): *It will cost between 8 and 10 million dollars.* **2** (showing connection): *a regular air service between London and Paris* | *a friendship between Sue and Brian* | *talks between the management and the unions* | *co-operation between the two companies* **3** (showing division or sharing between two or more): *Divide it between the children.* | *a choice between two possibilities* | *What's the difference between spaghetti and noodles?* | *a quarrel between Sue and Brian* | *a football match between Manchester United and Liverpool* | *They all did the job between*

them. | *Between us, we collected £17.* | *Between cooking, writing, and running the farm, she was very busy.* **4 between a rock and a hard place** *AmE infml* in a situation where both of two possible choices seem undesirable **5 between you and me** also **between you, me, and the gatepost/bedpost, between ourselves— infml** without anyone else knowing; privately: *Between you and me, (I think) he's rather stupid.* **6 in between** at some point (e.g. in space or time) between: *I'm not sure where it is, but it's somewhere in between New York and Chicago.* | *She did a university degree and a teacher's training course, with a year off in between (the two).*

▷ **USAGE Compare among and between.** When you are talking about only two things (or people) use **between**: *He divided the money between the two children.* If you are talking about a group of three or more things (or people) use **among**: *He divided the money among the three children.* | *The mountains were hidden among the clouds.* ◁

between² *adv* in or into a space or period of time that is between: *I ate breakfast and dinner but nothing (in) between.* —see also **few and far between** (FEW)

be-twixt /bɪ'twɪkst/ also **twixt— prep, adv old use or poet** between: *not a sailor nor a soldier but something betwixt and between* (=partly one and partly the other)

Bev-an /'bevən/, **A-neu-rin** /ə'naɪərɪn/ (Nye /naɪ/) (1897–1960) a British Labour politician from Wales, known for his excellent speeches. As Minister of Health (1945–51), he helped to establish the National Health Service.

bevel¹ /'bevəl/ *n* **1** a sloping edge or surface that does not form a right angle, usu. along the edge of wood or glass **2** an instrument for making such a sloping edge or surface

bevel² *v -ll- BrE || -l- AmE* [T] to make a bevel on (e.g. a piece of wood) —**bevelled** *adj*: *a bevelled mirror*

be-ver-age /'bevərɪdʒ/ *n fml* a liquid for drinking, esp. one that is not water or medicine: *alcoholic beverages* | *hot beverages* (=tea, coffee, etc.)

Bev-e-ridge /'bevərɪdʒ/, **William** (1879–1963) a British ECONOMIST, writer, and ACADEMIC best known for his **Beveridge Report** (1942) in which he put forward the idea that the state should look after people from the time they are born until they die. This led to the setting up of the WELFARE STATE in Britain.

Bev-er-ley /'bevəli/-vər-/ a market town in Humberside, E England, where the local government for Humberside is based

Bev-er-ly Hills /,bevəli 'hɪlz/-vər-/ an expensive part of Los Angeles, California where many famous film stars live

Beverly Hill-bil-lies /,bɛvəli 'bɪlɪz/, **The** a popular American television programme of the 1960s and 1970s in which a poor family discover oil on their land, become rich, and move to Beverly Hills

Bev-in /'bevɪn/, **Er-nest** /'ɜːnɪst/ (1881–1951) a British politician and TRADE UNION leader who established the Transport and General Workers' Union (TGWU), became chairman of the TUC, and as Foreign Secretary in the Labour government after the Second World War helped to form NATO

bev-y /'bevi/ *n* [C+*sing./pl. v*] **1** a large group or collection, esp. of girls or women: *a bevy of beauties* **2** a group of certain kinds of birds, esp. QUAIL **3 dial sl** an alcoholic drink

be-wail /bi'weɪl/ *v* [T] *fml* to express deep sorrow for or disappointment about, sometimes by crying tears

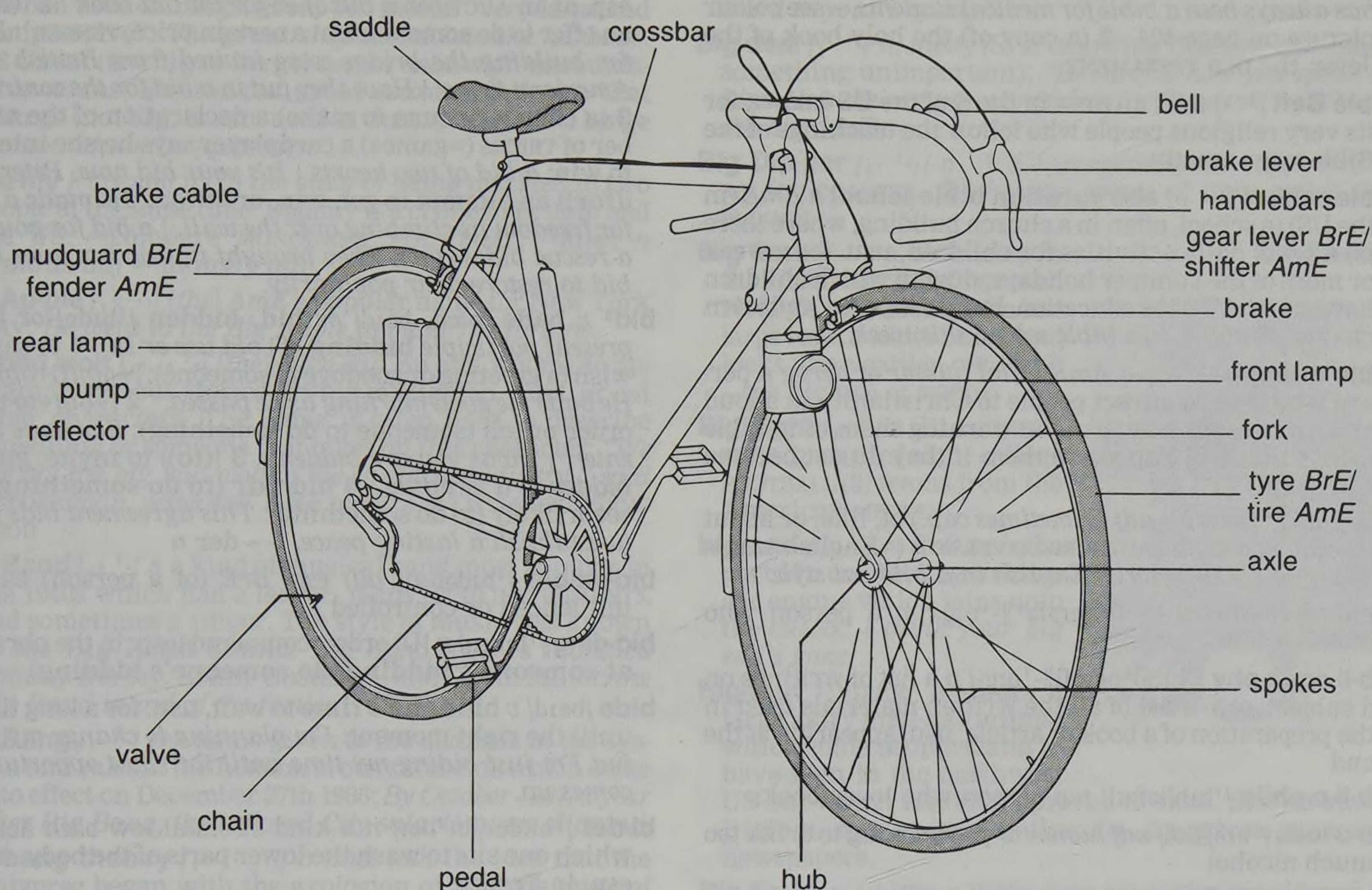
be-ware /bi'weə/ *v* [I (of);T+wh-; 0bj] (used, with no change of form, in giving or reporting warnings) to be very careful: *Beware of the dog.* | *Beware how you handle this dangerous substance.*

be-wigged /bi'wɪgd/ *adj lit or humor* wearing a wig

be-wil-der /bi'wɪldə/ *v* [T] to confuse, esp. by the presence of many different things at the same time: *Big city traffic bewilders me.* | *a bewildering mass of details* | *a bewildered look* — ~ment *n* [U]: *Imagine my bewilderment when she said that!*

be-witch /bi'wɪtʃ/ *v* [T] **1** to have a magic effect on; put under one's power by magic **2** to charm as if by magic: *a bewitching smile*

bicycle



be-yond¹ /bɪˈjɒnd||bɪˈjɑːnd/ *adv* on or to the further side; further: *They crossed the mountains and travelled to the valleys beyond.* | (fig.) *to prepare for the changes of the 1990s and beyond*

beyond² *prep* **1** on or to the further side of: *What lies beyond the mountains?* **2** (later than; past; after: *Don't stay there beyond midnight.* | *The new law extends this ban beyond 1988.* **3** more or greater than (an amount or limit): *The level of inflation has gone beyond 10%.* | *people who continue to work beyond the normal retirement age* **4** outside the range or limits of: *The switch on the wall was beyond the baby's reach.* | *The town had changed beyond recognition.* (=so much that it could not be recognized) | *His guilt has been established beyond reasonable doubt.* (=with certainty) | *It's beyond belief* (=impossible to believe) *that anyone could be so stupid.* | *success beyond our wildest dreams* (=far better than we could have expected) | *It's beyond me* (=too hard for me to understand) *why she married him.* **5** besides; except for: *I own nothing beyond the clothes on my back.* | *I can't tell you anything beyond what you know already.*

beyond³ *n* [the] (often *cap.*) life after death; **HEREAFTER**²: *What can we know of the beyond?* —see also **BACK OF BEYOND**

be-zique /bɪˈziːk/ *n* [U] a card game for two or four players, played with 64 cards

BFA /ˌbɪfəːˈeɪ/ *n* Bachelor of Fine Arts; a degree given by some American universities for studies in art, music, and acting

BFI /ˌbɪfɪˈeɪ/ [the] British Film Institute; a British organization begun in 1933 to encourage film making and use, which includes the National Film Theatre

Bhag-a-vad-Gi-ta /ˌbʌgəvəd ˈɡɪtə||ˌbʌgəvɑːd-/ [the] the best known book of the Hindu religion

bha-ji, **bhajee** /ˈbʌdʒi/ *n* a **SPICY** (=strongly tasting and smelling) Indian vegetable cake fried in **BATTER** (=a liquid mixture of flour, egg, and milk or water): *mushroom/onion bhaji*

bhang /bæŋ/ *n* [U] a not very strong form of the drug **CANNABIS** used in India —compare **HASHISH**, **MARIJUANA**

Bho-pal /bəʊˈpɑːl/ a city in the N of India, where in 1984 over 2000 people died after poisonous gas escaped from a factory owned by Union Carbide, an American-owned company

BHS /ˌbɪːeɪtʃ ˈes/ **BRITISH HOME STORES**

Bhu-tan /bʊːˈtɑːn/ a country in the Himalayas, E Asia, bordered by India, Tibet, and Sikkim; population 1,483,000 (1989)

Bhut-to /ˈbʊtəʊ/, **Zul-fi-kar Al-i** /ˈzʊlfɪkɑːr ˈæli||-ˈɑːli/ (1928–79) a Pakistani politician who was president (1971–73) and then **PRIME MINISTER** (1973–77) of Pakistan. He was overthrown (**OVERTHROW**) in a military **COUP** in 1977 and executed (**EXECUTE**) in 1979. His daughter **Benazir Bhutto** (1953–) was prime minister from 1988 to 1990.

bi- see **WORD FORMATION**

BIA /ˌbɪːaɪ ˈeɪ/ *n* **BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS**

bi-an-nu-al /baɪˈænjʊəl/ *adj* happening twice each year —compare **BIENNIAL**

Biar-ritz /ˌbɪəˈrɪts||ˌbɪə-/ a town in SW France, popular as a holiday **RESORT** for rich and famous people

bi-as¹ /ˈbaɪəs/ *n* [C;U] **1** a tendency to be in favour of or against something or someone without knowing enough to be able to judge fairly; **PREJUDICE**¹: *They complained of bias in the way the news media reported the story* | *an anti-government bias* **2** a tendency of mind: *Her scientific bias showed itself in early childhood.* **3** **on the bias** on the **CROSS**¹ (13); diagonally (**DIAGONAL**): *cloth cut on the bias* (=cut at an angle to the **WEAVE**, not parallel to it)

bias² *v* -s- or -ss- [T often *pass.*] to cause to form fixed opinions for or against something without enough information to judge fairly; **PREJUDICE**²: *The fact that she was a woman biased some members of the committee against her.* | *The judge was biased in favour of the second candidate, who was educated at the same college as himself.* | *biased reporting*

bias bind-ing /ˌbɪː. ˈbɪndɪŋ/ *n* [U] cloth in the form of a narrow band, cut on the bias, for use when sewing curved edges or corners

bi-ath-lon /baɪˈæθlən/ *n* a sporting competition in which the competitors take part in skiing (**SKI**) across country and **RIFLE** shooting —compare **DECATHLON**, **PENTATHLON**

bib /bɪb/ *n* **1** a piece of cloth or plastic tied under a child's chin to protect its clothes when eating **2** the upper part of an **APRON** or **DUNGAREES**, above the waistline **3** **one's best bib and tucker** *infml* one's best clothes

bib o-ver-alls /ˌbɪː. ˈoʊvərls/ *n* [P] *AmE* another name for **OVERALLS** (2) —see picture at **OVERALL**

Bi-ble /ˈbaɪbəl/ *n* [C;the] **1** (a copy of) the holy book of the Christians, consisting of the **OLD TESTAMENT** and the **NEW TESTAMENT**. In courts of law, people sometimes hold a Bible and swear that they will tell the truth: *The service*

included some readings from the Bible. | (fig.) *This book has always been a bible for medical students.* —see colour picture on page 424 **2** (a copy of) the holy book of the Jews; the OLD TESTAMENT

Bible Belt /'bi·bəl/ [the] an area in the S of the US known for its very religious people who follow the teachings of the Bible very exactly

bible school /'bi·bəl/ also **vacation bible school** *n* AmE (in the US) (a school, often in a church building, where there is) a set of daily activities for children, usu. for a week or more of the summer holidays, during which children have some religious education, but mostly play and learn CRAFTS: *Jennifer's in bible school this week.*

bible thump-er /'bi·bəl/ AmE *infml* humor or derog a person who tries to attract people to Christianity in a loud and unpleasant way, usu. by warning them of terrible things that will happen to them if they do not become Christians

bib-li-cal /'biblikəl/ *adj* (sometimes *cap.*) of, like, or about the Bible, esp. the AUTHORIZED VERSION (=English translation of 1611): *to write English in a biblical style*

bib-li-og-ra-pher /,bibli'ɒgrəfər/ -'æ:g-/ *n* a person who makes a bibliography

bib-li-og-ra-phy /,bibli'ɒgrəfi/ -'æ:g-/ *n* a list of writings on a subject, esp. a list of all the written materials used in the preparation of a book or article, usu. appearing at the end

bib-li-o-phile /'bibliəfaɪl/ *n* a person who loves books

bib-u-lous /'bibjʊləs/ *adj* humor or pomp liking to drink too much alcohol

Bic /bɪk/ *n* tdmk a simple, inexpensive type of BALLPOINT pen

bi-cam-er-al leg-is-la-ture /baɪ,kæməərəl 'ledʒɪsleɪtʃər, -lətʃər/ *n* a law-making body consisting of two parts, like the Senate and the House of Representatives which make up the US Congress

bi-car-bon-ate /baɪ'kɑ:bənəɪt, -bəneɪt/ -'kɑ:r-/ also **bicar-bonate of so-da** /,bi·kɑ:bənəɪt, -bəneɪt/ -'kɑ:r-/ **sodium bicarbonate, bak-ing soda, bi-carb** /'baɪkɑ:b/ -'kɑ:r-/ *infml* — *n* [U] a chemical substance used esp. in baking and taken with water as a medicine

bi-cen-te-na-ry /,baɪsen'tɪ:nəri/ -'tenəri, -'sentənəri/ *esp. BrE* || **bi-cen-ten-ni-al** /,baɪsen'teniəl/ *esp. AmE* — *n* the day or year exactly 200 years after a particular event: *This year is the bicentenary of the school's foundation.* | *The bicentennial of the American Revolution* — **bicentenary** *adj*: *bicentenary celebrations*

bi-ceps /'baɪseps/ *n* **biceps** [C+*sing./pl.* *v*] the large muscle on the front of the upper arm

bick-er /'bɪkər/ *v* [I (about, over, with)] to quarrel, esp. about unimportant matters: *The two children were always bickering (with each other) (over/about their toys).*

bi-cy-cle /'baɪsɪkəl/ also **cycle, bike** *infml* — *n* a two-wheeled vehicle which one rides by pushing its PEDALS with the feet. It has recently become fashionable among people concerned about the ENVIRONMENT to travel by bicycle because bicycles do not cause any POLLUTION: *She goes to work on her bicycle/by bicycle.*

▷ USAGE You **ride (on)** a bicycle or a horse. At the beginning of your journey you **get on(to)** it or (*fml*) **mount** it. At the end of your journey you **get off** it or (*fml*) **dismount (from)** it. —see also **DRIVE (USAGE)**, **STEER (USAGE)**, **TRANSPORT (USAGE)** <

bicycle² also **cycle, bike** *infml* — *v* [I+*adv/prep*] to travel by bicycle — **bicyclist** *n*

bicycle shed /'bi·sɪkəl/ also **bike shed** *n* *esp. BrE* a building where bicycles can be kept for a time under shelter, esp. at a school or factory. In Britain, people sometimes make jokes about young people smoking cigarettes or having their first sexual experiences behind the school bicycle sheds.

bid¹ /bɪd/ *v* **bid**; *present participle bidding* [I;T] **1** [(for)] to offer to pay (a price) for goods or to charge (a price) for one's work or services: *He bid (£10) for an old book at the auction.* | *What am I bid for this old book?* (=What price will people offer me for it?) | *Several companies are bidding for the contract to build the bridge.* **2** (in playing cards) to make a BID² (3): *Have you bid yet?* | *I bid two hearts.* — ~ **der n**

bid² *n* **1** [(for)] an offer to pay a certain price at a sale, esp. at an AUCTION: *a bid of £5 for the old book* **2** [(for)] an offer to do some work at a certain price; TENDER³: *Bids for building the bridge were invited from British and American firms.* | *Have they put in a bid for the contract?* **3** (a chance or turn to make) a declaration of the number of TRICKS (=games) a cardplayer says he/she intends to win: *a bid of two hearts* | *It's your bid now, Peter.* **4** [(for)] an attempt to get, win, or attract: *He made a bid for freedom by climbing over the wall.* | *a bid for power* | *a rescue bid* [+to-*v*] *They brought in new tax laws in a bid to restore their popularity.*

bid³ *v* **bade** /bæd, beɪd/ or **bid, bidden** /'bɪdn/ or **bid**; *present participle bidding* [T] *old use or lit* **1** to say or wish (a greeting or goodbye to someone): [+*obj(i)+obj(d)*] *He bade me good morning as he passed.* **2** [+*obj+to-v*] to order or tell (someone to do something): *She bade him enter.* | *Do as you are bidden.* **3** [(to)] to invite: *guests bidden to a wedding* **4 bid fair (to do something)** to seem likely (to do something): *This agreement bids fair to establish a lasting peace.* — ~ **der n**

bid-da-ble /'bɪdəbəl/ *adj* *esp. BrE* (of a person) easily influenced or controlled

bid-ding /'bɪdɪŋ/ *n* [U] order; command (*esp. in the phrases at someone's bidding, do someone's bidding*)

bide /baɪd/ *v* **bide one's time** to wait, usu. for a long time, until the right moment: *I'm planning to change my job, but I'm just biding my time until the right opportunity comes up.*

bi-det /'bi:deɪ/ || bɪ'deɪ/ *n* a kind of small low bath across which one sits to wash the lower parts of the body, used esp. in France

bi-en-ni-al /baɪ'eniəl/ *adj* **1** (of an event) happening once every two years **2** (of a plant) living for two years and producing flowers and seed in the second year —compare ANNUAL, BIENNIAL — ~ **ly** *adv*

bier /bɪər/ *n* a movable frame like a table, sometimes with wheels, for supporting a dead body or COFFIN, or for taking it to the grave

Bierce /bɪəs/ || bɪərs/, **Am-brose** /'æmbroʊz/ (1842–?1914) an American writer known for his short stories, who disappeared in Mexico and was never found

biff /bɪf/ *v* [T] *BrE sl* to hit with a quick hard blow: *He biffed me on the chin!* — **biff** *n*

bi-fo-cals /baɪ'fəʊkəlz/ || 'baɪfəʊ-/ *n* [P] glasses for the eyes with an upper part made for looking at distant objects, and a lower part made for reading —see **PAIR (USAGE)** — **bifocal** *adj*

bi-fur-cate /'baɪfəkeɪt/ -ər-/ *v* [I] *fml* (of roads, branches, rivers, etc.) to divide into two branches or parts; FORK² (2) — **cation** /,baɪfə'keɪʃən/ -fər-/ *n* [C;U]

big /bɪg/ *adj* -**gg-** **1** of more than average size, weight, amount, force, importance, etc.: *a big box* | *a big field* | *a big increase in prices* | *the biggest hotel in New York* | *How big is it?* | *no bigger than a pin* | *That child is big for his age.* | *The big question is what to do next.* | *a big landowner* (=who owns a lot of land) | (fig.) *big-hearted* (=generous) | *Don't cry: you're a big girl now.* | *The big day has come at last!* | *The big advantage of this system is that it is easy to use.* | *John's a big spender.* (=spends money freely) | *You should go into merchant banking — that's where the big money is.* (=that is where high wages can be earned) | *a big eater* | *his big* (=older) *sister/brother* **2 infml** very popular and successful, esp. in sports and the entertainment business: *Frank Sinatra is very big in Las Vegas.* **3** [F+with] *old use* (of a woman) PREGNANT: *big with child* **4 be big of** to be generous of: *It was big of him to lend you his car.* **5 have a big mouth** to talk too much, esp. to give away secrets: *Be careful what you say to her — she's got a big mouth.* **6 have big ideas** *infml* to have plans or aims to do something important or to become important **7 the bigger they come, the harder they fall** saying the more important someone is and the more power that they have, the worse it is for them when they lose power **8 too big for one's boots** *infml* believing oneself to be more important than one really is —see also **think big** (THINK¹) — ~ **ness** *n* [U]

▷ USAGE Compare **big**, **large**, and **great**. **1** **Big** and **large** are both common when talking about actual size, though **large** is slightly more formal: *That shirt doesn't fit me; it's too big/large.* **2** **Great** means "famous" or

“important” when used of people: *He's a great man.* When used of things, **great** (*lit*) means “very large and impressive”: *The great ship sailed into the harbour.* 3 **Great** (not **big** or **large**) can be used with uncountable nouns: *She showed great courage.* 4 Notice that **large** (not **big**) is usu. used in the expressions *a large amount/number/quantity.* <

big-a-my /'bɪgəmi/ *n* [U] the state of being married to two people at the same time. Bigamy is a crime in Britain and the US. —compare **MONOGAMY**, **POLYGAMY** —**mist** *n* —**mous** *adj* —**mously** *adv*

Big Apple /, 'bɪ· / [the] *AmE* a popular name for New York City: *He went to the Big Apple to make his fortune.*

big bad wolf /, 'bɪ· / [the] *often cap.* an evil **WOLF** who appears in various stories, trying to frighten, hurt, or eat other characters. The name is often used to describe something or someone that takes on this character: *“We are not the big bad wolf of the chemical industry,” said a spokesman, yesterday.* —see picture at **LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD**

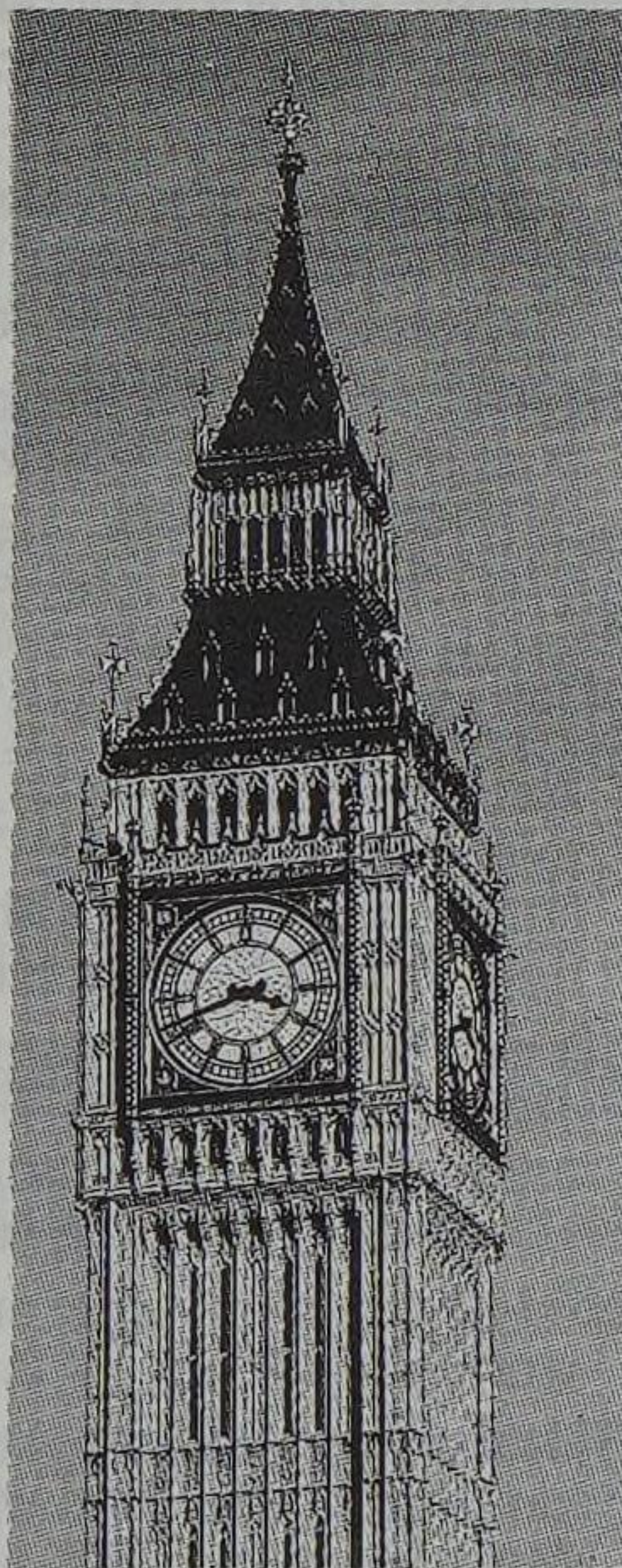
Big Band /, 'bɪ· / *n* a kind of musical band most popular in the 1940s which had a leader, many **WIND INSTRUMENTS**, and sometimes a singer. The style of music was known as the **Big Band Sound**. Big Band leaders included Tommy Dorsey, Benny Goodman, and Glenn Miller: *the Big Band sound of the forties*

Big Bang /, 'bɪ· / the name given to the changes in the system and rules of the London **STOCK EXCHANGE** which came into effect on December 27th 1986: *By October 1987, a year after Big Bang, the inflated City salaries were slipping.*

big bang theo-ry /, 'bɪ· / [the] *tech* the idea that the universe began with the explosion of a single mass of material and that the pieces are still flying apart —compare **STEADY STATE THEORY**

Big Ben /, 'bɪ· / the large bell in the clock tower of the Houses of Parliament in Westminster, London. The sound of Big Ben striking is well known to all British people and the tower of Big Ben is often used as a **SYMBOL** of London or Britain. —see colour map on page 817

Big Ben



Big Bird /, 'bɪ· / a character from the American television programme *Sesame Street*, who is a very large yellow bird that acts like a child

big board /, 'bɪ· / [the] *AmE* (the electronic sign showing changing share prices at) the New York Stock Exchange

Big Brother /, 'bɪ· / a character in the book *Nineteen Eighty-Four* by George Orwell. In the story, Big Brother is the head of the state and although he is not seen in person there are pictures of him everywhere with the message “Big Brother is watching you”. The expression is now used to describe a leader of an organization or a government that has complete power, allows no freedom, and keeps a close watch on people's activities.

big bucks /, 'bɪ· / *n* [P] *AmE infml* a lot of money: *She's earning big bucks now.*

big busi-ness /, 'bɪ· / [the] *n* [U] very large companies as a group, esp. in connection with their power and influence in politics and economic matters: *What's good for big business isn't always good for the man on the street.*

big cat /, 'bɪ· / *n* not *tech* a large member of the cat family, such as a lion or tiger

big cheese /, 'bɪ· / *n infml humor* a very important person in an organization, institution, etc.: *So you're the big cheese around here, are you?*

Big Dad-dy /, 'bɪ· / (1936–) a popular wrestler (**WRESTLE** (1)) whose real name is **Shirley Crabtree**, known for his large size, fair hair, and humorous activities in the ring

big day /, 'bɪ· / *n* [sing] a wedding day: *Are you looking forward to your big day?*

big deal /, 'bɪ· / *n, interj* [S] *sl* (showing that one considers something unimportant): *“Be careful how you speak to him. He's the company president.” “Big deal!” | What's the big deal?*

Big Dip-per /, 'bɪ· / *n* 1 [C] (sometimes not caps.) *BrE* a **ROLLER COASTER** 2 [the] the group of stars called the **PLOUGH**

Big Ears /, 'bɪ· / a character in the *Noddy* children's stories, Noddy's best friend, who has large ears, a white beard, and looks like a garden **GNOME** (2) —see picture at **NODDY**

Big Eight /, 'bɪ· / *n* [U] a **CONFER-ENCE** (group) of eight college **FOOTBALL** (2) teams from the American **MIDWEST**

big end /, 'bɪ· / *n* *BrE tech* the part of a connecting rod in a car engine which joins onto the **CRANK**: *I think your big end's gone.*

Big-foot /'bɪgfʊt/ *n* -**foots** a large hairy man-like animal which some people claim to have seen in the northwest US but which cannot be proved to exist. Stories about Bigfoot are very popular in American **TABLOID** newspapers.

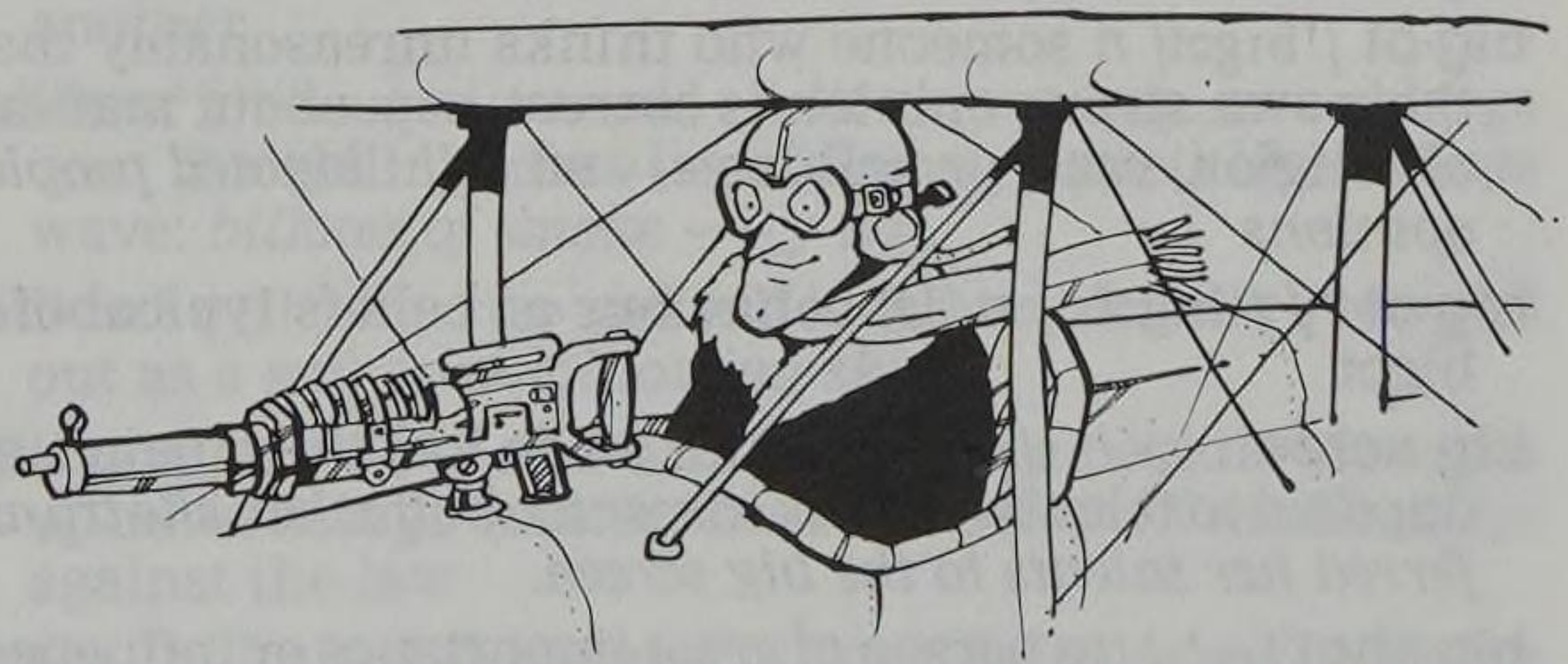
Big Four /, 'bɪ· / [the + P] the four countries considered to be the main world powers, namely the US, UK, the former USSR and China

big game /, 'bɪ· / *n* [U] the largest wild animals hunted for sport, such as lions and elephants. Big-game hunting used to be considered an adventure, but now many people disapprove of it because so many animals have been killed and there are only small numbers of some kinds (**SPECIES**) left: *a big-game hunter*

big-gie /'bɪgi/ *n infml* someone or something very large, important, or well-known: *Have you heard their new record? I think it's going to be a biggie.*

Big-gles /'bɪgəlz/ a character in stories by Captain W E Johns. Biggles is a fighter pilot in the First World War, known for his flying skills, daring, and ability to remain calm under enemy fire, and was very popular with British schoolboys for many years: *Biggles-style flying gear*

Biggles



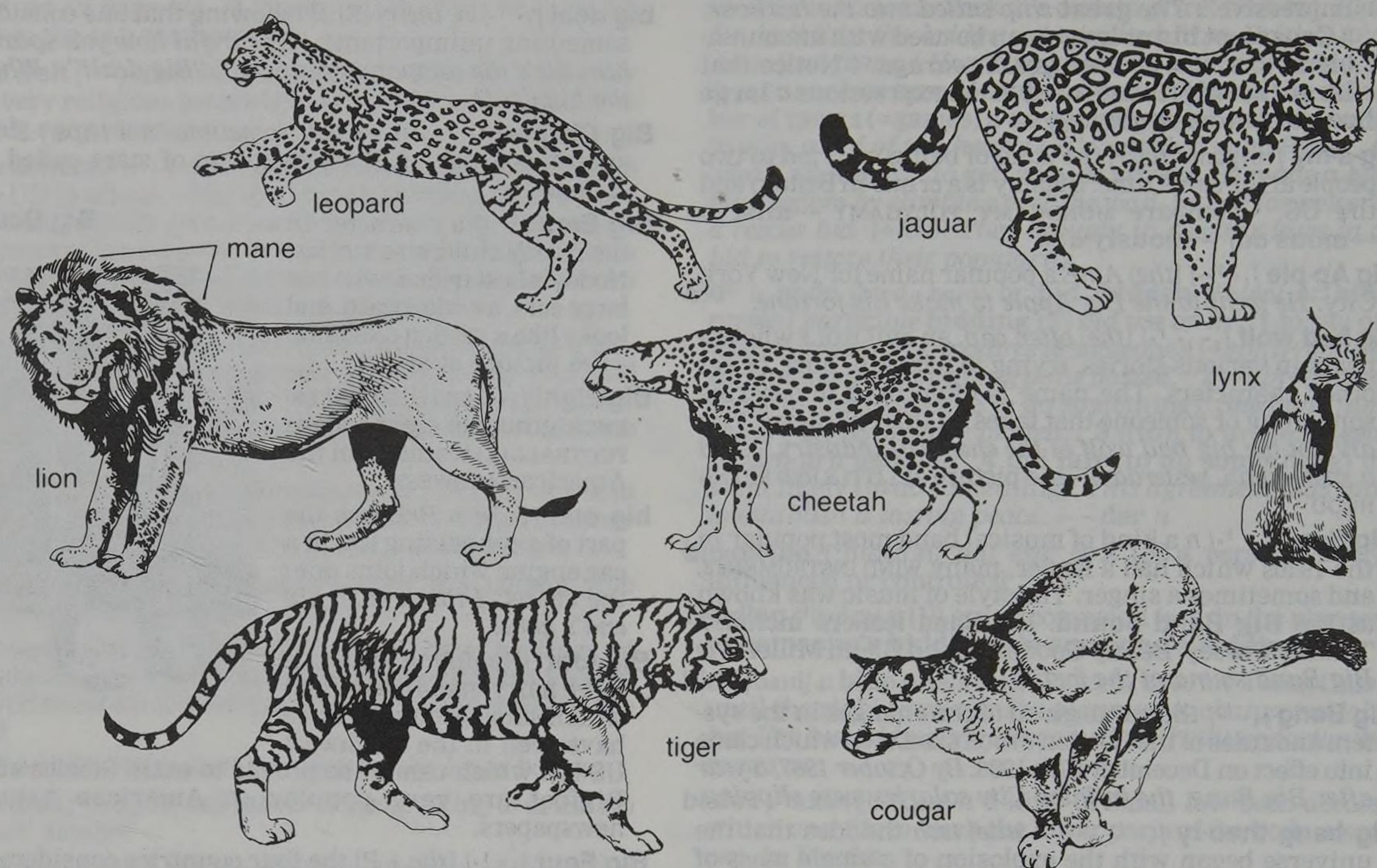
big gov-ern-ment /, 'bɪ· / [C;U] *AmE derog* a government which becomes involved in many parts of people's lives in order to help them take care of themselves. People who do not think **WELFARE** (=financial help for poor people) is a good idea, or who think that there are too many government programmes for disadvantaged people, often talk about big government to describe the kind of government that provides too many of these kinds of services.

Biggs /bɪgz/, **Ron-ald** /'rɒnld/ 'rɑː-/ (**Ron-nie** /'rɒni/ 'rɑː-) (1929–) a famous British train robber who took part in the Great Train Robbery and who escaped to Brazil

big gun /, 'bɪ· / *n* *AmE sl* an important person who can influence events

big-head /'bɪghed/ *n infml* someone who has too high an opinion of their own importance

big-heart-ed /, 'bɪ· / *adj* kind and loving: *She'd give you the coat off her back she's so big-hearted.*



big-horn /'bighɔ:n||-hɔ:rn/ also **bighorn sheep** /,· '·/ *n* a wild sheep with long, curved horns which lives in the Rocky Mountains in the US

bight /baɪt/ *n* **1** a curve in a coast larger than, or curving less than, a BAY **2** a LOOP made in the middle of a rope

Big League /,· '·/ *n* *AmE infml* MAJOR LEAGUE —compare LITTLE LEAGUE

Big Mac /,· '·/ *n* *tdmk* a HAMBURGER made by McDonalds which has two pieces of meat, cheese, LETTUCE and other foods on a BUN (round bread)

Big Man on Cam-pus /,· ,· · '·/ also **BMOC** *n* *AmE infml* a popular, important male student at a university, such as an ATHLETE or the president of the student's union

big name /,· '·/ *n* *infml* an important or well-known person or group: *They've lined up quite a few big names for the concert.*

big noise /,· '·/ a BIG SHOT

big-ot /'bɪgət/ *n* someone who thinks unreasonably that their own strong opinion is correct, esp. about matters of religion, race, or politics — *~ed adj*: *bigoted people/opinions*

big-ot-ry /'bɪgətri/ *n* [U] behaviour or beliefs typical of a bigot

big screen /,· '·/ *n* [*the*] (film made for) the cinema, as opposed to television: *Her career took off when she transferred her talents to the big screen.*

big shot /,· '·/ *n* a person of great importance or influence: *talking to some big shot in the advertising business*

big stick /,· '·/ *n* [*the*] the threat of using military or political force to get what one wants

Big Ten /,· '·/ also **Big 10** *n* [*the*] a group of ten midwestern US universities who compete with each other in sports. These teams are generally thought to be the best in college sports, and their players often go on to join professional teams —compare PAC TEN

Big Three /,· '·/ [*the*] *AmE* General Motors, Ford, and Chrysler, which are the three largest American car makers: *The Big Three have all announced incentives to boost flagging auto sales.*

big-tick-et /'· ··/ *adj* *AmE infml* expensive: *big-ticket items such as refrigerators and stereos*

big time /'· ,·/ *n* [*the*] *infml* the highest level of importance or success (e.g. in sports or the entertainment business): *She was fairly successful as an actress, but never really hit (=reached) the big time* —compare SMALL-TIME —**big-time** /'· ·/ *adj*: *a big-time gangster* —**big-timer** *n*

big toe /,· '·/ *n* the largest toe on the inside of the foot — see picture at FOOT

big top /,· '·/ *n* a very large tent used by a CIRCUS (=a show with performing animals, people, etc.)

big wheel /,· '·/ *n* **1** *BrE* || also **ferris wheel** *esp. AmE* — a machine used in amusement parks, consisting of a large upright wheel carrying seats which remain HORIZONTAL as the wheel turns round **2** a BIG SHOT

big-wig /'bɪgwɪg/ *n* *humor or derog sl* a person with a high position in an organization

bi-jou /'bi:zʊ:/ *adj* [A] (esp. of a building) small and pretty: *The estate agent described this little house as a desirable bijou residence.*

bike /baɪk/ *n* *infml* **1** a two-wheeled vehicle; BICYCLE **2** *AmE infml* MOTORCYCLE **3** *get on your bike* *BrE infml* to go out and make an effort to find a job. The phrase is connected esp. with the former British politician Norman Tebbit. —**bike** *v* [I+adv/prep]

bik-er /'baɪkər/ *n* **1** someone who rides a MOTORBIKE esp. one of a group often wearing black leather bearing the name of the group and/or other words and SYMBOLS —see also HELLS ANGEL **2** someone who rides a BICYCLE

bi-ki-ni /bɪ'ki:ni/ *n* a small two-piece bathing suit for women

Bi-ko /'bɪ:kəʊ/, **Steve** /stɪv/ (1946–77) a black South African leader who died while being held by the police. His death made him into a MARTYR for black South Africans.

bi-la-bi-al /baɪ'leɪbiəl/ *n, adj* *tech* (a consonant sound such as /b/) made using both lips

bi-lat-er-al /baɪ'lətərəl/ *adj* concerning or including two groups or nations: *a bilateral agreement on arms control* —compare MULTILATERAL, UNILATERAL — *~ly adv*

bil-ber-ry /'bɪlbəri||-,beri/ also **whortleberry** — *n* (the blue-black fruit of) a low bushy plant growing on hillsides and in high woods in Northern Europe —compare BLUEBERRY

bile /baɪl/ *n* [U] **1** a bitter green-brown liquid formed in the LIVER, which helps in the DIGESTION of fats **2** *fml* bad temper and bitterness

bilge /bɪldʒ/ *n* **1** [C] the broad bottom of a ship **2** [U] dirty water in the bottom of a ship **3** [U] *old-fash sl* foolish talk: *Don't give me that bilge!*

bi-lin-gual /baɪ'lɪŋgwəl/ *adj* **1** of, containing, or expressed in two languages: *a bilingual French-English dictionary* **2** able to speak two languages equally well: *a bilingual secretary*

bilingual² *n* a person who is able to speak two languages equally well —compare **MONOLINGUAL**

bil-i-ous /'bilɪəs/ *adj* **1** sick from having too much bile in the body: *Fatty food makes some people bilious.* **2** bad-tempered; **IRASCIBLE** — **~ness** *n* [U]

bilk /bɪlk/ *v* [T (out of)] to cheat (someone), esp. causing them to lose money; **SWINDLE**

Bil-ko /'bɪlkəʊ/, **Sergeant** the main character in a humorous television programme about an American army camp. Bilko is an army officer, played by Phil Silvers, who talks very fast and loves playing cards and finding ways to make money.

bill¹ /bɪl/ *n* **1** [(for)] a list of things bought, used, eaten, etc., showing the total amount that must be paid: *Could we have the bill please?* | *Have you paid the phone bill yet?* | *The bill for the repairs came to £650.* **2** a written plan for a new law, which is brought to parliament for it to consider: *a debate in Parliament on the government's new transport Bill*

► **CULTURAL NOTE** In the British parliament a bill is usually produced by the Government, read out ("the First Reading"), and discussed in the House of Commons. After the Second Reading a special committee examines it in detail. This period is called the committee stage. It is followed by the report stage when there is more discussion. After the Third Reading it goes to the House of Lords, which sometimes sends it back with suggested changes. Finally, it receives the Royal Assent (= is signed by the Queen) and becomes law. In the US a bill is usually produced by one or more members of Congress. Its introduction to the House or Senate is called the "first reading". The bill is given to a special committee for study, and then is discussed and voted on by either the House or the Senate, depending on where it was first introduced. If the bill passes, it goes to the side of Congress which has not yet seen it for more study and another vote. After Congress as a whole has approved the bill, it goes to the President, who may either sign it to become law or **VETO** (disapprove) it. ◀

3 *AmE* a piece of paper money; **NOTE**¹ (4): *a five-dollar bill*
4 a printed notice: *Stick No Bills* (a public warning on a wall, fence, etc.) **5** **the (old) bill** *BrE infml* the police —see also **BILL OF FARE/HEALTH/LADING/RIGHTS/SALE**, **fit the bill** (**FIT**¹), **foot the bill** (**FOOT**²), **top the bill** (**TOP**³)

bill² *v* [T] **1** [(for)] *esp. tech* to send a bill to: *I can't pay now: please bill me for it later.* **2** [(as) *usu. pass.*] to advertise in printed notices: *It's been billed as the race of the year.* [+obj+to-v] *He's billed to appear as Hamlet.* | (fig.) *The following election is being billed* (=generally described) *as the most important in 30 years.*

bill³ *n* **1** *tech* the beak of a bird **2** *BrE (usu. cap. as part of a place name)* a long narrow piece of land sticking out into the sea: *Portland Bill*

bill⁴ *v* **bill and coo** *infml* (of lovers) to kiss and speak softly to each other

Bill and Ben the Flower-pot Men /,bɪl . bɛn . ˈflaʊə . pɒt . mɛn/ see **FLOWERPOT MEN**

bill-board /'bɪlbɔːrd/ *n* *AmE* for **HOARDING** (2)

bil-let¹ /'bɪlɪt/ *n* a house (usu. a private home) where soldiers are put to live for a while

billet² *v* [T (on)] to provide (a soldier) with a billet: *The captain billeted his men on old Mrs Smith.* (=in Mrs Smith's house)

bil-let-doux /,bɪleɪ 'duː/ *n* **billets-doux** /,bɪleɪ 'duːz/ *Fr*, *humor or lit* a love letter

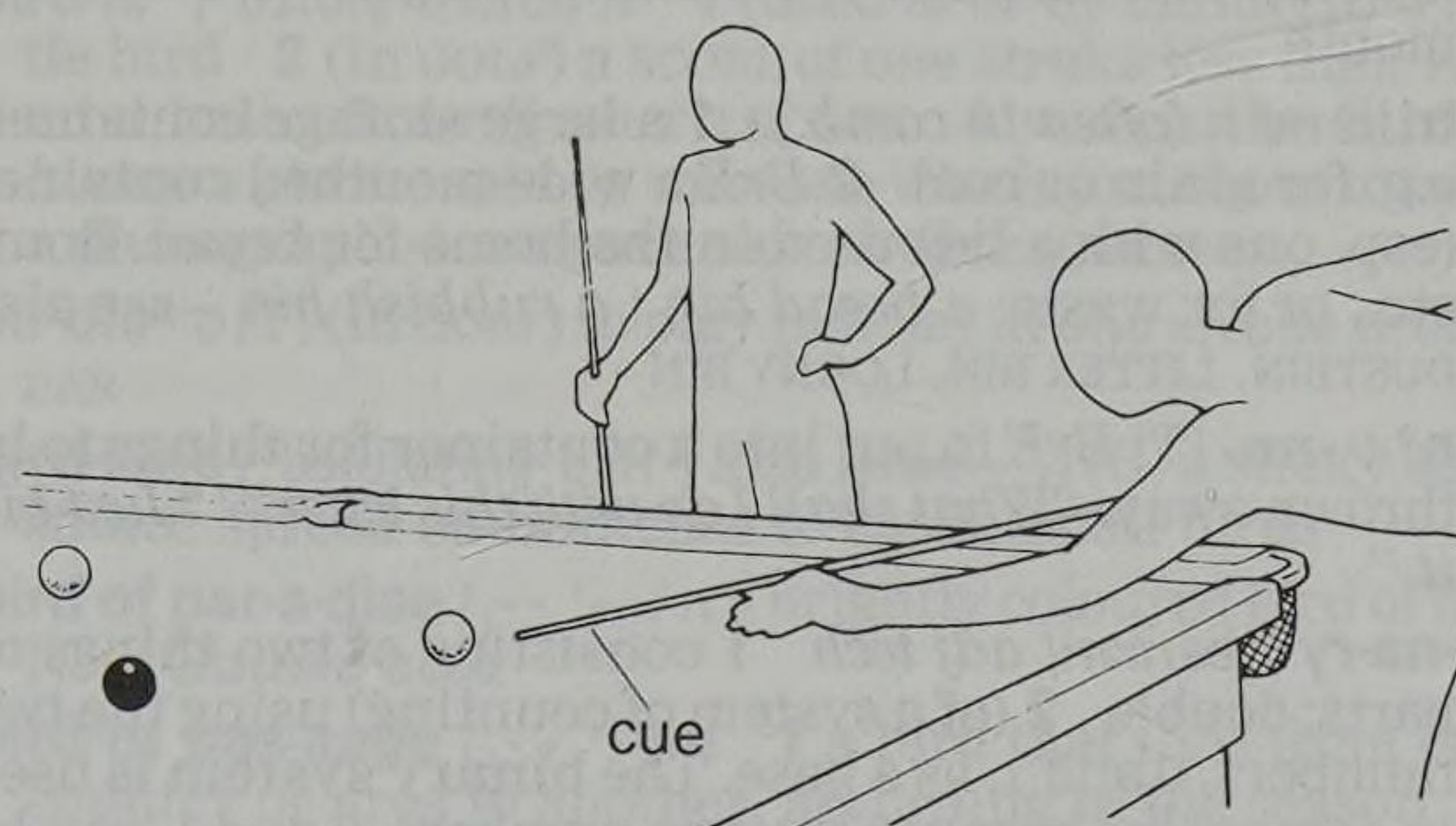
bill-fold /'bɪlfəʊld/ *n* *AmE* for **WALLET** (1)

bill-hook /'bɪlhʊk/ *n* a tool consisting of a blade with a hooked point and a handle, used esp. for cutting off branches of trees and cutting up wood for fires

bil-liards /'bɪljədz/ *n* [U] any of several games played on a cloth-covered table (a **billiard table**) with balls which are knocked with **CUES** (=long sticks) against each other or into pockets at the corners and sides of the table —see also **POOL**, **SNOOKER** —**billiard** *adj* [A]: *billiard balls*

Bil-lings-gate /'bɪlɪŋzgeɪt/ a large fish market in E London

bil-lion /'bɪljən/ *determiner, n, pron* **billion or billions** **1** (the number) one thousand million; 1,000,000,000; 10⁹ **2** *BrE old use* (the number) one million million; 1,000,000,000,000; 10¹² — **~th** *determiner, n, pron, adv*



bil-lion-aire /,bɪljə'neə/ *n* a person whose money, property, etc. is worth one billion dollars, pounds, etc.

bill of ex-change /,bɪl . ɒf . ɪk'stʃeɪŋ/ also **promissory note** *AmE— n tech* a promise, which must by law be fulfilled, to repay a debt to someone on a fixed date

bill of fare /,bɪl . ɒf . fə/ *n* **bills of fare** *old-fash* a list of dishes to be served in a restaurant; **MENU**

bill of goods /,bɪl . ɒf . ɡʊdz/ *n* [U] *AmE infml* **sell someone a bill of goods** deceive; cheat: *The roofers sold me a bill of goods when they fixed the roof; it leaks even worse than it did before.*

bill of health /,bɪl . ɒf . helθ/ *n* **a clean bill of health** a favourable report on the health of a person or the satisfactory condition of a machine, organization etc.: *The school was given a clean bill of health by the inspector.*

bill of lad-ing /,bɪl . ɒf . lɑːdɪŋ/ *n* **bills of lading** *n tech* an official document stating that goods to be shipped have been received, and giving the conditions under which they will be carried

bill of rights /,bɪl . ɒf . raɪts/ *n* **bills of rights** (*usu. caps.*) a written statement of the most important rights of the citizens of a country

Bill of Rights [the] a document, part of the US Constitution, which **LISTS** the rights of US citizens, such as freedom of speech, freedom of religion, the right to trial by jury, etc. Originally there were ten rights listed (ten **AMENDMENTS**), but over the years several more have been added. The US Supreme Court often deals with cases that are thought to involve in some way a right listed in the Bill of Rights, so they are said to deal with **Constitutional** subjects or questions. —See also **FIFTH AMENDMENT**, **FIRST AMENDMENT**

bill of sale /,bɪl . ɒf . seɪl/ *n* **bills of sale** an official written statement that something has been sold by one person to another

bil-low¹ /'bɪləʊ/ *n* [*usu. pl.*] **1** *lit* a wave, esp. a very large one **2** a rolling mass (as of flame or mist) like a large wave: *billows of smoke* — **~y** *adj*

billow² *v* [I] **1** to rise and roll in waves **2** [(OUT)] to swell out as a sail does: *billowing skirts*

bill pos-ter /'bɪl . ɒs . tər/ also **bill sticker** *n* a person who puts up advertising **POSTERS**, either as a job or (if unofficially) against the law

bil-ly /'bɪli/ also **bil-ly-can** /'bɪlɪkæn/ *BrE & AustrE— n* a tin pot for cooking or boiling water when camping

billy club /'bɪli . klʌb/ also **nightstick** *n* *AmE* a short stick carried by a police officer

billy goat /'bɪli . ɡəʊ/ *n* (used esp. by or to children) a male goat —compare **NANNY GOAT**

Billy Li-ar /'bɪli . li . ə/ the title of a popular humorous play first produced in London in 1960

billy-o /'bɪli . ɒ/ *n* **like billy-o** *BrE old-fash sl* a lot; very strongly, fast, or fiercely: *to run like billy-o*

Billy the Kid /'bɪli . ðə . kɪd/ (1859–81) an American criminal (**OUT-LAW**) who was hunted and finally shot. Billy the Kid is the subject of many stories and films.

bil-tong /'bɪltɒŋ/ *n* [U] *S AfrE* meat dried in the sun

bim-bo /'bɪmbəʊ/ *n* *infml* an attractive but unintelligent young woman, esp. one who has a sexual relationship with a politician or other public figure: *He's been seen with some blonde bimbo at nightclubs around town, and his wife is furious.*

bi-month-ly /baɪ'mʌnθli/ *adv, adj* appearing or happening a every two months: *a bimonthly magazine* **b** twice a month

bin¹ /bɪn/ *n* (often in comb.) **1** a large storage container, e.g. for grain or coal **2** *BrE* a wide-mouthed container (esp. one with a lid) used in the home for bread, flour, etc., or for waste: *a bread bin | a rubbish bin* —see also DUSTBIN, LITTER BIN, LOONY BIN

bin² *v -nn-* [T] *BrE* to put into a container for things to be thrown away: "What shall I do with this letter?" "Just bin it."

bi-na-ry /'baɪnəri/ *adj tech* **1** consisting of two things or parts; double **2** (of a system of counting) using the two numbers, 0 and 1, as a base. The **binary system** is used in computers because the two numbers, 0 and 1, can be represented by an electrical signal that is either off or on.

bind¹ /baɪnd/ *v* **bound** /baʊnd/ **1** [T] *usu. fml or lit* to tie together, esp. with rope: *Bind the prisoner's arms.* | *The hostages were bound hand and foot.* (=tied by their hands and feet) | *Bind the prisoner to her chair.* | (fig.) *shared commercial interests that bind the two companies together* | (fig.) *We feel bound together by our past experiences.* **2** [T (UP)] to tie up firmly: *She bound (up) her hair.* | *to bind up a wound with bandages* **3** [T] to fasten (a book) together and enclose it in a cover **4** [T] to strengthen or decorate with a border of material: *to bind the edges of a rug* **5** [I;T (TOGETHER)] to (cause to) stick together in a mass: *This flour mixture isn't wet enough to bind properly.* | *The rain will help to bind the earth (together).* **6** [T] *fml* to cause to obey, esp. by a law or a solemn promise; have a duty (to): *I am bound by my promise.* [+obj+to-v] *They bound him to remain silent* —see also BOUND

bind sbdy. **over** *phr v* [T] *BrE law* to order (someone) to cause no more trouble under threat of legal punishment: *The two young offenders were bound over to keep the peace for 18 months.*

bind² *n* [S] *infml* an annoying or difficult situation: *Their refusal to sign the contract has put us in a bit of a bind.* —see also DOUBLE BIND

bind-er /'baɪndə/ *n* **1** [C] a machine or person that binds, esp. books: *Your book is still at the binder's.* **2** [C] a usu. removable cover, esp. for holding sheets of paper, magazines, etc. —see also RING BINDER **3** [C;U] a substance that makes things stick together **4** [C] *AmE* an agreement involving a payment of money (DEPOSIT) by someone to show that they intend to buy some property

bind-ing¹ /'baɪndɪŋ/ *n* **1** [C] a book cover: *The binding of this book is torn.* **2** [U] material sewn or stuck along the edge of something, such as a dress, for strength or decoration

binding² *adj* (of something written) having the power to demand obedience (e.g. to a law) or fulfilment (e.g. of a promise): *a binding agreement* | *The contract is binding on everyone who signed it.*

bind-weed /'baɪndwɪd/ *n* [U] a plant which curls itself round other plants; wild CONVULVULUS

binge /bɪndʒ/ *n* **1** *infml* a period of drinking, wild behaviour, etc.: *They went on a binge and didn't get back until three in the morning!* **2** *tech* a period of eating a very large amount of food, done by someone suffering from an EATING DISORDER —compare BINGE, JAG

bin-go /'bɪŋgəʊ/ *n, interj* **1** [U] a game played for money or prizes, in which numbers chosen by chance are called out and players cross out these numbers if they appear on their own cards. The first player to cross out all the numbers on his or her card shouts out "Bingo!" or "House!" In Britain, bingo is generally thought of as a game played by working-class women in the evening. In the US, it is usu. played by older people and games are often run by the Catholic Church or on Native American lands (RESERVATIONS). Bingo is illegal in some American states because it is considered to be gambling (GAMBLE). **2** *infml* (an expression of pleasure at a sudden successful result): *Bingo! That will make a great photo!*

bin-lin-er /'bɪˌlɪnər/ *n* *BrE* a plastic bag which is placed inside a DUSTBIN and used to collect waste

bin-man /'bɪnmæn/ *n -men* /men/ *BrE infml* one of the men who come to people's houses to empty their DUSTBINS

bi-noc-u-lars /bɪ'nɒkjʊləz, baɪ-||-'nɒ:kjʊlərz/ *n* [P] a pair of glasses like short TELESCOPES for both eyes, used for

looking at distant objects: *I watched the horse-race through my binoculars.* —see PAIR (USAGE) —**binocular** *adj*

binocular vi-sion /ˌbɪˌnɒkjʊləˈvɪʃən/ *n* [U] *tech* the ability to FOCUS both eyes on one object, possessed by humans, monkeys, and some birds

bi-no-mi-al /baɪ'nəʊmiəl/ *n, adj tech* (an expression) consisting of two numbers, letters, etc., connected by the sign + or the sign - (like $a+b$ or $x-7$)

bio- see WORD FORMATION

bi-o-chem-is-try /ˌbaɪəʊ'kɛmɪstri/ *n* [U] (the scientific study of) the chemistry of living things

bi-o-de-gra-da-ble /ˌbaɪəʊdɪ'greɪdəbəl/ *n tech, usu. apprec* able to be broken down into harmless products by the natural action of living things (e.g. bacteria): *biodegradable packaging*

bi-o-feed-back /ˌbaɪəʊ'fɪdɪbæk/ *n* [U] a method of learning to consciously control usu. unconscious physical tension, by using an electronic machine to measure this tension (such as blood pressure) and watching which of various mental and physical exercises are successful at reducing it

bi-og-ra-pher /baɪ'ɒgrəfər/ ||-'ɑ:g-/ *n* a writer of biography: *Dr Johnson's famous biographer, James Boswell*

bi-og-ra-phy /baɪ'ɒgrəfi/ ||-'ɑ:g-/ *n* **1** [C] an account of a person's life written by someone else: *Boswell wrote a famous biography of Dr Johnson.* **2** [U] this branch of literature —compare AUTOBIOGRAPHY —**phical**, /ˌbaɪə'græfɪkəl/ —**phic** *adj* —**phically** /kli/ *adv*

biological clock /ˌbaɪˌɒlədʒɪkəl/ ||-'ɑ:g-/ also **body clock** *n* [S] the system in plants, animals, and humans which controls some types of behaviour. In animals, this includes sleeping, eating, and biological events such as the MENSTRUAL CYCLE in females. Women sometimes talk about being conscious of their biological clock when they realise that they will soon be too old to have children.

biological con-trol /ˌbaɪˌɒlədʒɪkəl/ ||-'ɑ:g-/ *n* [U] the control of PESTS (=usu. small animals or insects which harm or destroy food supplies) by biological means (e.g. by the introduction of something harmless to humans and crops which eats, lives on, or competes against the pest)

biological war-fare /ˌbaɪˌɒlədʒɪkəl/ ||-'ɑ:g-/ also **germ warfare**— *n* [U] methods of fighting a war in which living things such as BACTERIA are used to poison, spread disease, damage crops, etc. —compare CHEMICAL WARFARE

bi-ol-o-gy /baɪ'ɒlədʒi/ ||-'ɑ:l-/ *n* [U] **1** the scientific study of living things: *She has a degree in biology.* | *a biology lesson* **2** the scientific laws of the life of a certain type of living thing: *the biology of bacteria* —**gist** *n* —**gical** /ˌbaɪə'ɒlədʒɪkəl/ ||-'ɑ:l-/ *adj* —**gically** /kli/ *adv*: *Biologically speaking, they're plants.*

bi-o-mass /'baɪəʊmæs/ *n* [U] *tech* matter from dead or living plants or animals; organic matter, esp. when burned to provide heat: *cow dung, wood, and other biomass fuels*

bi-on-ic /baɪ'ɒnɪk/ ||-'ɑ:n-/ *adj infml* having greater than human powers (such as speed, strength, etc.)

bi-o-phys-ics /ˌbaɪəʊ'fɪzɪks/ *n* [U] the science concerned with the study of matter and natural forces in living things

bi-o-pic /'baɪəʊ,pɪk/ *n* a film that tells the story of someone's life: *a biopic about Gandhi*

bi-op-sy /'baɪəʊpsɪ/ ||-ɑ:p-/ *n* the removal of cells, liquids, etc., from the body of a sick person to discover the nature of the disease or to find out which parts of the body are infected

bi-o-rhyth-ms /'baɪəʊ,rɪðəmz/ *n* [P] the supposed regular increases and decreases in the activity of the living processes of a person or animal, that are believed to influence behaviour and feelings

bi-o-sphere /'baɪəʊsfɪər/ *n* [the] *tech* the part of the world in which life can exist

bi-o-tech-nol-o-gy /ˌbaɪəʊtek'nɒlədʒi/ ||-'nɑ:/ *n* [U] **1** the use in science and industry of living things such as cells and bacteria to make drugs and chemicals, destroy waste matter, etc. **2** *AmE* ERGONOMICS

bi-par-ti-san /ˌbaɪpɑ:tɪ'szən/ ||baɪ'pɑ:tɪ'szən/ *adj* of or representing two political parties: *a bipartisan committee* | *The new law has bipartisan support.*

bi-par-tite /baɪ'pɑ:tɪt/ ||-'pɑ:r-/ *adj* **1** having two parts: *a*

bipartite leaf 2 agreed upon or shared by two groups:
a **bipartite treaty** —compare **TRIPARTITE**

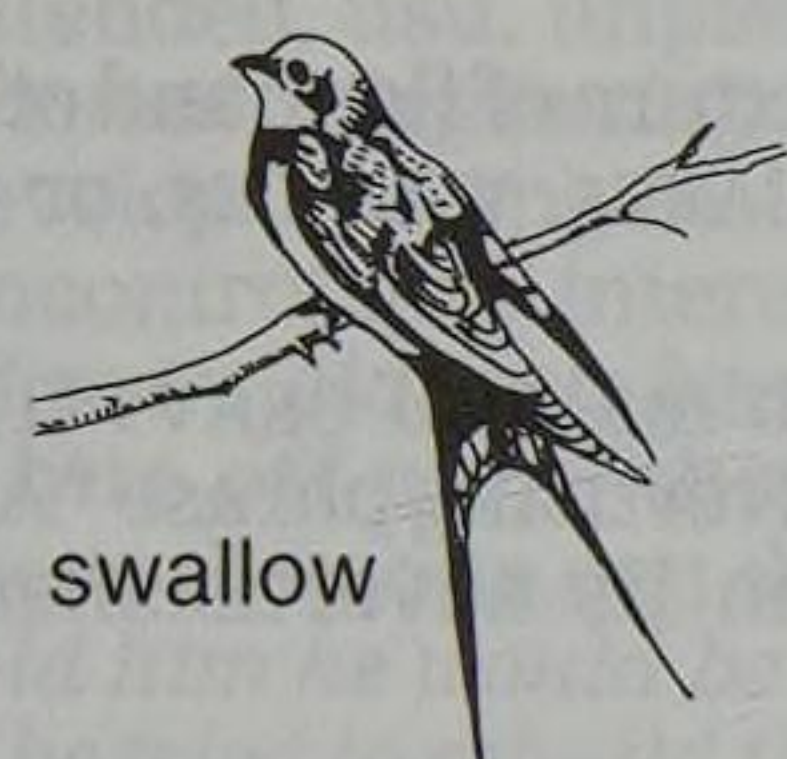
bi-ped /'baɪpɛd/ *n* **tech** a two-legged animal —compare **QUADRUPED**

bi-plane /'baɪpleɪn/ *n* an aircraft, esp. of a type built in the early 20th century, with two sets of wings, one above the other —compare **MONOPLANE**

birch¹ /bɜːtʃ||bɜːrtʃ/ *n* 1 [C;U] (wood from) a tree, common in northern countries, with a smooth **BARK** and thin branches —see also **SILVER BIRCH** 2 [C;the] a stick made from birch wood, used for punishing. The birch is still available as a punishment on the Isle of Man, but nowhere else in Britain or the US. Some older people in Britain would like to “bring back the birch” for football **HOOLIGANS** and **VANDALS**.

birch² *v* [T] to whip or hit, esp. with a birch, as a punishment

birds



swallow



robin



sparrow



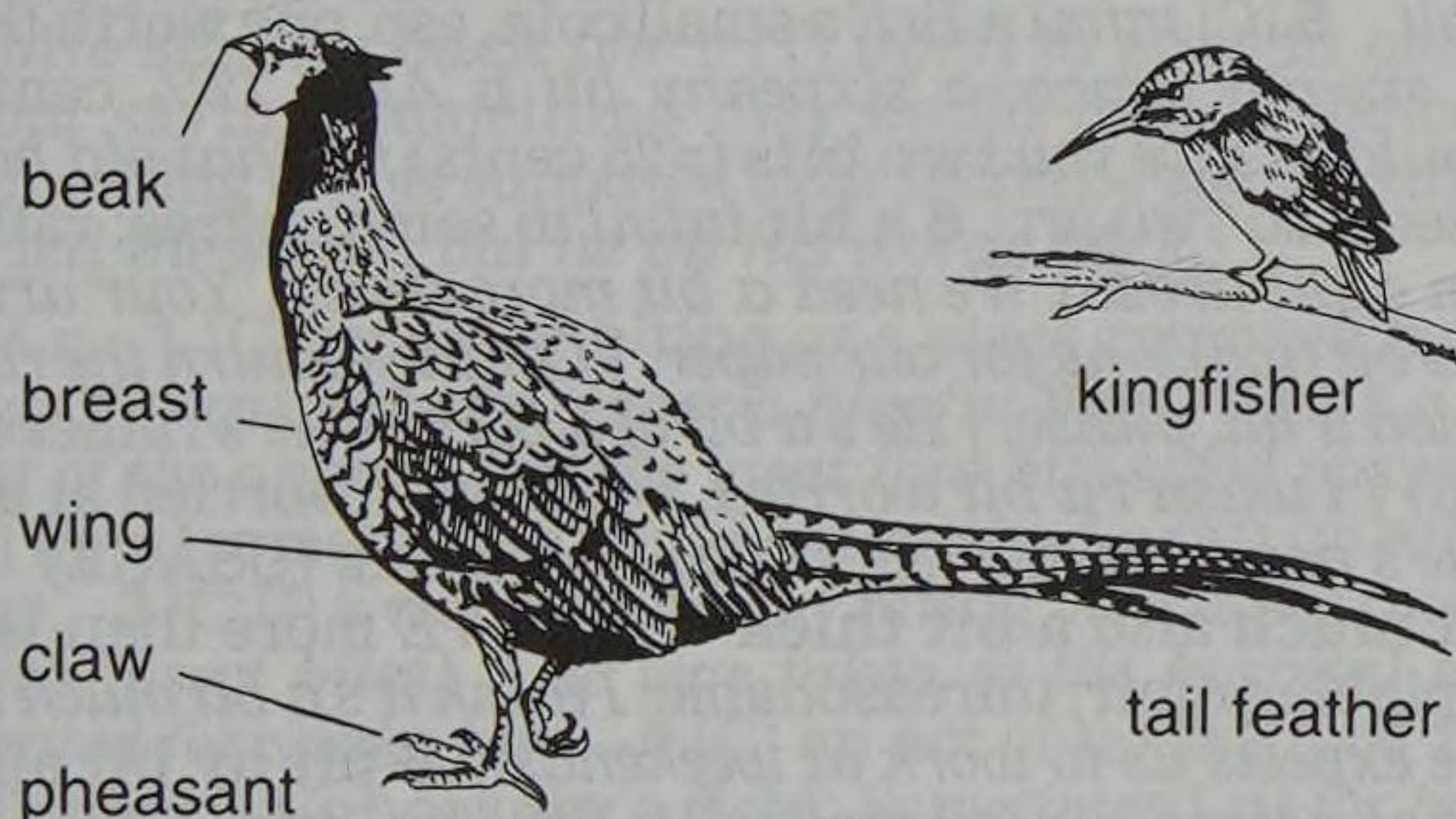
thrush



pigeon



woodpecker



beak

breast

wing

claw

pheasant

kingfisher

tail feather

bird /bɜːd||bɜːrd/ *n* 1 a creature with wings and feathers which can usu. fly in the air 2 *BrE sl*, becoming old-fash a young woman (usu. considered offensive to women): *Who was that bird I saw you with last night?* 3 *old-fash infml* a person, esp. one who is odd or remarkable: *He's a strange old bird.* 4 *saying a bird in the hand* (is worth two in the bush) something you already have or are sure of getting (is better than something else which you may not get in the end) 5 **birds of a feather** *infml* people of the same kind (often bad): *I'm not surprised those two are such friends; they're birds of a feather!* 6 **do bird** *BrE sl* to spend a period of time in prison 7 **for the birds** *AmE infml* silly; not practical or sensible 8 **give someone the bird** *infml*, esp. *BrE* to make rude noises to show disapproval of someone: *The crowd gave him the bird.* 9 (strictly) **for the birds** *sl*, esp. *AmE* worthless; silly 10 **the bird has flown** *infml* the person needed or wanted has gone away or escaped 11 **the birds and bees** *euph* or *humor* the facts about sex, esp. as told to children; **FACTS OF LIFE**: *He knows all about the birds and the bees.* —see also **EARLY BIRD**, **WATER BIRD**, **eat like a bird** (**EAT** (7)), **kill two birds with one stone** (**KILL** 1)

Bird, Lar-ry /'læri/ (1956–) an American **BASKETBALL** player

bird-bath /'bɜːdbaːθ||'bɜːrdbæθ/ *n* a small, usu. round bath that is not very deep and is put in a garden for birds to bathe in

bird-brained /'· ·/ *adj infml* stupid; silly

bird dog /'· ·/ *n AmE* for **GUNDOG**

bird-ie¹ /'bɜːdi||'bɜːrdi/ *n* 1 (used to or by children) a little bird 2 (in **GOLF**) a **SCORE** of one stroke less than **PAR** on a hole 3 *AmE* **SHUTTLECOCK** 4 **watch the birdie humor** a phrase said by someone who is just about to take a photograph —compare **say cheese** (**CHEESE**)

bir-die² *v* [T] (in **GOLF**) to play (a hole) in one stroke under **PAR**

bird-lime /'bɜːdlɪm||'bɜːr-/ also **lime**— *n* [U] a sticky substance spread on branches to catch small birds

bird of par-a-dise /'· · '· ·/ *n* a brightly coloured bird of the New Guinea area

bird of pas-sage /'· · '· ·/ *n* 1 a bird that flies from one country or area to another, according to the season 2 *BrE infml* a person who never stays in one place very long

bird of prey /'· · '· ·/ *n* a bird that kills other birds and small animals for food

bird-seed /'bɜːdsɪd||'bɜːrd-/ *n* [U] a mixture of small seeds for feeding caged birds

Bird's /bɜːdz||bɜːrdz/ *n tdmk* a type of **CUSTARD** powder (=powder which is mixed with milk and sugar and heated to make custard) made by General Foods Ltd.

Bird's Eye /'· ·/ *tdmk* the name of a company producing a range of **FROZEN** food products (esp. fish) which are known for quality. The products are advertised by Captain Bird's Eye, a cheerful old sea captain.

bird's-eye view /'· · '· ·/ *n* [(of)] a view seen from above or from the sky: *a marvellous bird's-eye view of the whole city*

bird-song /'bɜːdsɒŋ||'bɜːrdsɔːŋ/ *n* [U] the musical noises made by birds

bird-watch-er /'· · '· ·/ *n* a person who watches wild birds in their natural surroundings, and tries to recognize different types

bi-ret-ta /bɪ'retə/ *n* a square cap worn esp. by Roman Catholic priests

bir-i-a-ni, **byriani** /bɪri'ɑːni/ *n* [U] a hot, tasty, Indian, rice dish mixed with meat, fish, vegetables, etc.

Bir-ken-au /'bɜːkənau||'bɜːr-/ also **Auschwitz II** a Nazi death camp (a form of **CONCENTRATION CAMP** whose purpose was purely to kill people) for Jews in Poland during the Second World War

Bir-ken-head /'bɜːkənhed||'bɜːr-/ a town on Merseyside, NW England, connected to Liverpool by road and railway **TUNNELS**¹ under the river

Bir-kens-tocks /'bɜːkənstɒks||'bɜːrkənstɑːks/ *n tdmk* a leather **SANDAL** (=a shoe open at the toes and heel) with a broad, flat bottom. Many people connect Birkenstocks in their minds with people who are more interested in comfort than fashion, eat health foods, and want a simpler life style.

Bir-ming-ham /'bɜːmɪŋəm||'bɜːr-/ 1 an industrial city in the West Midlands of England, the second largest in Britain. In the past, Birmingham was known for being a dirty, industrial city, but now it is becoming more popular, esp. as a centre of music and the arts —see colour map on page 818 2 a city in Alabama in the US. During the 1960s and the Civil Rights movement, Birmingham was a place where relations between blacks and whites were very tense and often resulted in extreme violence. There were many protests in Birmingham over the way blacks were treated. Some of these protests were violent, as in the race **RIOTS** of 1963, and others were non-violent, such as the protests led by Martin Luther King, Jr. —see colour map on pages 1374-5

Birmingham Six /'· · '· ·/ *n* [the+P] six Irishmen who were found guilty of putting IRA bombs in two Birmingham **PUBS** in 1974, killing 21 people. The men were sent to prison for life, but always said that they were innocent, and were freed in 1991, after new facts were considered about the way the police had acted. Along with other cases, this case has raised questions in Britain about police questioning of people they have caught for a crime, and about the way mistakes in justice are put right —compare **GUILDFORD FOUR**, **MAGUIRE SEVEN**, **TOTTENHAM THREE**

Bir-nam Wood /'bɜːnəm 'wʊd||'bɜːr-/ the wood near **Bir-nam** in Perthshire, Scotland. In Shakespeare's play *Macbeth*, Macbeth is told that he will only be defeated when Birnam Wood comes to Dunsinane. Later, his enemy's army comes through Birnam Wood and each soldier cuts

a large branch to hide himself, so that when the army moves on it looks as if the wood is moving. Macbeth is defeated and killed.

bi-ro /'baɪərəʊ/ *n* **biros** *BrE tdmk* a BALLPOINT: *written with a biro/in biro*

birth /bɜːθ||bɜːrθ/ *n* **1** [C;U] the act, time, or process of being born, of coming into the world out of the body of a female parent: *the birth of a child* | *The father was present at the birth.* | *Last year there were more births than deaths.* | *The baby weighed eight pounds at birth.* | *She gave birth to a fine healthy baby.* | (fig.) *the birth of a new nation/political party* —compare DEATH (1) —see also DATE OF BIRTH **2** [U] family origin: *of noble birth* | *She is French by birth.*

birth con-trol /'bɜːθkəntrɒl/ *n* [U] the practice of limiting, by any of various methods, the number of children born; CONTRACEPTION: *to practise birth control* | *a birth control clinic*

birth-day /'bɜːθdeɪ||'bɜːr-/ *n* **1** a day which is an exact year or number of years after one was born: *my 21st birthday* | *a birthday party* | *Happy birthday to you!* —compare ANNIVERSARY

► **CULTURAL NOTE** People, esp. children, often celebrate their birthdays with a **birthday party** where people play games, sometimes wear special paper hats, eat **birthday cake**, and sing a special song called *Happy Birthday to you*. People are usu. given presents and **birthday cards** on their birthday. ◀

2 in one's birthday suit *infml humor* having no clothes on; NAKED

Birthday Hon-ours /'bɜːθdeɪ||'bɜːr/ *n* [P] the titles and other AWARDS² given to public figures and deserving people by the Queen on her official birthday

birth-mark /'bɜːθmɑːk||'bɜːrθmɑːrk/ *n* a usu. red or brown mark on the skin at birth

birth pa-rent /'bɜːθpeɪnt||'bɜːr-/ *n* the mother who actually gave birth to one, or one's natural father; used in comparison with other sorts of parents, such as ADOPTIVE, SURROGATE, FOSTER, etc.

birth-place /'bɜːθpleɪs||'bɜːr-/ *n* [usu. sing.] the place where someone was born: *Stratford-upon-Avon was Shakespeare's birthplace.* | (fig.) *Cooperstown, New York, is said to be the birthplace of baseball.*

birth-rate /'bɜːθreɪt||'bɜːr-/ *n* the number of births for every 100 or every 1000 people in a particular year in a particular place: *a birthrate of three per 100* | *a rapidly increasing birthrate* —compare DEATH RATE

birth-right /'bɜːθraɪt||'bɜːr-/ *n* [usu. sing.] a right or set of rights that belongs to someone because of the family or nation they come from: *Freedom is our birthright.*

birth-stone /'bɜːθstəʊn||'bɜːrθ-/ *n* the valuable stone which is connected with the month of the year in which one was born: *If you were born in July, then your birthstone is a ruby.*

Birt-whis-tle /'bɜːtswɪsl||'bɜːrt-/ *n* **Sir Harrison** (1934–) an English COMPOSER known for his modern music for voices and instruments, including *Tragoedia* and *Ring a Dumb Carillon*

bir-y-a-ni /,bɪrɪ'ɑːni/ see BIRIANI

Bis-cay /'bɪskeɪ/ *n* **Bay** of a part of the Atlantic Ocean running down the W coast of France to the N coast of Spain, known for its dangerous weather

bis-cuit /'bɪskɪt/ *n* **1** [C] *BrE* || **cookie** *AmE*— a flat thin dry cake, sweetened or unsweetened, usu. sold in packets or tins: *We had coffee and biscuits.* **2** [C] *AmE* for SCONE **3** [U] a light yellowish brown colour **4** [U] *tech* cups, plates, etc., made of baked clay, after their first heating in the fire but before the GLAZE is put on **5** **take the biscuit** *BrE sl* to be the best/worst thing one has ever seen or heard of: *This latest excuse of his really takes the biscuit!*

bi-sect /baɪ'sekt||'baɪsekt/ *v* [T] *tech* to divide into two usu. equal parts — ~ **ion** /baɪ'sekʃən||'baɪsek-/ *n* [U]

bi-sex-u-al /baɪ'sekʃuəl/ *adj* **1** possessing qualities of both sexes: *a bisexual plant* **2** sexually attracted to people of both sexes —compare HETEROSEXUAL, HOMOSEXUAL, LESBIAN —**bisexual** *n* — ~ **ly** *adv* — ~ **ity** /baɪ'sekʃu'ælɪti/ *n* [U]

bish-op /'bɪʃəp/ *n* **1** (*often cap.*) (in some branches of the Christian church) a high-ranking priest in charge of all

the churches and priests in a large area (a DIOCESE): *Bishop Desmond Tutu* | *the Bishop of Durham* **2** (in CHESS) a piece that can be moved any number of squares from one corner towards the opposite corner—see picture at CHESS; see also **as the actress said to the bishop** (ACTRESS)

bish-op-ric /'bɪʃəprɪk/ *n* the position of a bishop, or the area (DIOCESE) that a bishop is in charge of

Bis-marck /'bɪzmɑːk||-mɑːrk/, **Ot-to von** /'ɒtəʊ vɒn||'ɑːtəʊ vɒn/ (1815–98) a German politician, very popular in his time, who became CHANCELLOR of the German EMPIRE

bis-muth /'bɪzməθ/ *n* [U] a grey-white metal that is a simple substance (ELEMENT), is easily broken, and is used in medicine

bi-son /'baɪsən/ also **buffalo**— *n* **bison** or **bisons** a large wild animal like a cow formerly common in Europe and N America, with a very large head and shoulders covered with hair

bisque /bɪsk/ *n* [U] thick cream soup, esp. made from SHELLFISH: *lobster bisque*

Bis-quick /'bɪskwɪk/ *n* [U] *tdmk* a mixture of flour and other substances needed to make PANCAKES, WAFFLES, or BISCUITS (2), sold in the US

Bis-to /'bɪstəʊ/ *n* [U] *tdmk* a British make of GRAVY (1) in powder form, known esp. for its advertising phrase “Aah! Bisto!”, and the children used in its advertisements, called the **Bisto Kids**

bis-tro /'bɪstrəʊ/ *n* **-tros** a small BAR¹ (3) or restaurant; esp. one that is fashionable and popular

bit¹ /bɪt/ *n* **1** [C (of)] a small piece or amount: *The floor was covered in bits of paper/bits of broken glass.* —see picture at PIECE **2** [C (of)] *esp. BrE* any part or piece of something larger: *Who would like the last bit of cake?* | *I liked the bit when the shark suddenly appeared behind the boat — that was the best bit in the whole film.* **3** [S+of] *esp. BrE* a certain amount; some: *a bit of bad news* | *I'm going to do a bit of Christmas shopping.* | *There's been a bit of trouble at the office.* | *I did a bit of teaching before I became a writer.* **4** [S] a short time: *I'm going out for a bit.* **5** [C] *infml a BrE* a small coin, esp. one worth three or six old pence: *a sixpenny bit* **b** *AmE* 12½ cents: *I wouldn't give you two bits (=25 cents) for that old book!* —see also TWO-BIT **6 a bit** *infml* to some degree; rather: *I'm a bit tired.* | *We need a bit more time.* | *Your article is a bit (too) long for our paper.* | *Could you turn the radio down a bit, please.* | *He's a bit of a bore.* (=he's rather BORING) | *I wasn't a bit worried.* (=I wasn't worried at all) | *She's not a bit like her sister.* —see MORE (USAGE) **7 a bit much** also **a bit thick** — *esp. BrE* more than is acceptable or fair; unreasonable: *I think it's a bit much that she expects us to work at weekends.* **8 bit by bit** also **a bit at a time**— *infml* gradually; little by little **9 bits and pieces/bobs** *infml* small things of various kinds: *Let me get my bits and pieces together.* **10 do one's bit** *BrE infml* to do one's share of work that needs to be done: *We'll soon get it finished if we all do our bit.* **11 every bit as** *infml* just as: *She's every bit as clever as her sister.* **12 to bits** into small pieces: *The bridge was blown to bits by the explosion.* | (fig.) *My nerves have gone (all) to bits lately.* —see also BIT OF FLUFF, BIT PART

► **USAGE** Use **a bit** before adjectives: *I'm a (little) bit tired.* Use **a bit of** before nouns: *a bit of money* | *a bit of a problem.* ◀

bit² *n* **1** a metal bar, part of a BRIDLE, that is put in the mouth of a horse and used for controlling its movements —see picture at HORSE **2** the sharp part of a tool for cutting or making holes: *a drill bit* **3** **champ/chafe at the bit** to be restless and difficult to control because of being impatient to do something —compare **straining at the leash** (STRAIN¹) **4** **take the bit between one's teeth** to make a serious and determined effort to deal with something difficult or unpleasant

bit³ *n* *tech* the smallest unit of information that can be used by a computer: *a 16-bit processor* —compare BYTE

bit⁴ *past tense* of BITE

bitch¹ /bɪtʃ/ *n* **1** a female dog **2** *derog* a woman, esp. when unkind or bad-tempered: *You bitch!* —see also SON-OF-A-BITCH

bitch² *v* [I (about)] *sl* **1** to complain continually: *I wish you'd stop bitching.* **2** to make nasty or hurtful remarks about other people

bitch-en /'bɪtʃən/ *adj* *AmE sl* good: *That's a bitchen car.*

bitch-y /'bɪtʃi/ *adj* nasty and hurtful towards other people: *She's really bitchy.* | *a bitchy remark* — *ily adv* — *iness n* [U]

bite¹ /baɪt/ *v* **bit** /bɪt/, **bitten** /'bɪtn/ **1** [I;T] to cut, crush, or seize (something) with the teeth or to attack (someone or something) with the teeth: *Be careful. My dog bites.* | *The boy bit into the piece of cake.* | *He bit a large piece out of it.* | *Their dog bit me on the leg/bit a hole in my trousers.* | *Do your children bite their fingernails?* **2** [I;T] (of insects and snakes) to make a hole in the skin (of) and draw blood: *The mosquitoes are really biting this evening!* | (fig., *infml*) *You've been in a bad mood all day — what's biting you?* (=what is wrong?) **3** [I] (of fish) to accept food on a fisherman's hook and so get caught: *I've been sitting here for hours but the fish just aren't biting today.* | (fig.) *I hoped she would be interested in my plan, but she didn't bite.* (=express any interest) **4** [I] to take hold of something firmly; *GRIP*: *The ice on the road was so hard that the tyres wouldn't bite.* **5** [I] to have the intended, usu. unpleasant, effect: *The new higher taxes are really beginning to bite.* **6 be bitten with** *infml* to develop (a strong desire for something or a strong, almost uncontrollable interest in something): *Ever since he was 16 years old, he's been bitten with a love of motorcycles.* **7 bite off more than one can chew** *infml* to attempt more than one can deal with or succeed in finishing: *I told him he would be biting off more than he could chew if he tried to rebuild the house himself.* **8 bite one's tongue** to make a great effort to stop oneself saying what one really feels **9 bite someone's head off** *infml* to speak to or answer someone rudely and angrily: *I only asked you what time it was — there's no need to bite my head off!* **10 bite the bullet** *infml* to suffer bravely something very unpleasant **11 bite the dust** *infml* to be killed or defeated or come to an unsuccessful end: *The project bit the dust when the new management came in.* **12 bite the hand that feeds one** to harm someone who has treated one well **13 once bitten, twice shy** saying if you have failed at something or been hurt by it once, you will be more careful next time

bite sthg. ↔ **back** *phr v* [T] *infml* to prevent oneself from saying (something that would cause offence or something that is supposed to be secret): *Peter was about to tell the secret, but he bit his words back.*

bite² *n* **1** [C] an act of biting or a piece removed by biting: *The cat gave its owner a playful bite.* | *I took a bite out of the apple.* | *Cut the meat into bite-sized pieces.* **2** [S] *infml* something to eat: *I haven't had a bite (to eat) all day.* **3** [C;U] a wound made by biting: *My face is covered with insect bites!* | *He was taken to the hospital to be treated for snake bite.* **4** [C] an act of taking food from a fisherman's hook (by a fish): *Sometimes I sit for hours without getting a bite.* **5** [S;U] sharpness or bitterness: *This cheese has no flavour: I like cheese with more bite in it.* | *a political satire without much bite to it* **6 another/a second bite at the cherry** *BrE* a second chance to do or get something one wants

bit-ing /'baɪtɪŋ/ *adj* sharply painful to the body or mind: *a cold and biting wind* | *biting remarks* — *~ly adv*: *a bitingly cold wind*

bit of fluff /ɪ · ˈ · ɪ/ *n* *BrE old-fash sl* a young woman, esp. one who is sexually attractive

bit part /ɪ · ˈ · ɪ/ *n* a small, unimportant character played by an actor in a play or film

bit-ten /'bɪtn/ *past participle* of BITE

bit-ter¹ /'bɪtə/ *adj* **1** having a sharp, biting taste, like beer or black coffee without sugar —compare SWEET¹ (1), SOUR¹ (1) **2** (of cold, wind, etc.) very sharp and biting; *HARSH*: *It's really bitter out there today.* **3** causing pain or grief; hard to accept: *the bitter truth* | *It was a bitter disappointment/a bitter blow when we found out they had been cheating us all along.* | *I must warn you — and I speak from bitter experience — not to do business with those people.* **4** filled with or caused by hate, anger, unfulfilled expectation, or other unpleasant feelings: *bitter enemies* | *bitter tears* | *bitter opposition to the government's policies* | *He's still very bitter about the way she treated him.* **5 a bitter pill (to swallow)** something very unpleasant that one has to accept: *The defeat was a bitter pill to swallow.* **6 to the bitter end** *infml* to the end in spite of all unpleasant difficulties; until no more

effort is possible: *to struggle on to the bitter end* — *~ly adv*: *bitterly cold* | *bitterly disappointing* — *~ness n* [U]

bitter² *n* [U] *BrE* bitter beer: *A pint of bitter, please.* —see also BITTERS

bit-tern /'bɪtən||-ərn/ *n* **bitterns** or **bittern** a brown European waterbird with long legs which makes a deep hollow sound

bit-ters /'bɪtəz||-ərz/ *n* [U+*sing./pl. v*] a bitter usu. alcoholic mixture of plant products for mixing into drinks

bit-ter-sweet /,bɪtə'swi:t-||-tər-/ *adj* **1** pleasant, but mixed with sadness: *bittersweet memories of childhood* **2** of or being a type of chocolate made with very little sugar

bit-ty /'bɪti/ *adj* *BrE infml*, often *derog* consisting of or containing little bits or unconnected parts: *I thought the film was rather bitty.* — **~tiness n** [U]

bi-tu-men /'bɪtʃumən||bɪ'tuː-/ *n* [U] any of various sticky substances (such as ASPHALT or TAR), used esp. in road-making — **~minous** /bɪ'tjuːmənəs||bɪ'tuː-/ *adj*

bi-valve /'baɪvæl-/ *n* *tech* any SHELLFISH with two shells joined together, such as an OYSTER

biv-ou-ac¹ /'bɪvu-æk/ *n* a camp without tents

bivouac² *v* -**ck-** [I] to spend the night in the open without tents: *The climbers bivouacked halfway up the mountain.*

biv-vy bag /'bɪvi bæɡ/ also **bivouac bag** /'... ɪ/ *fml* — *n* a small tent with no poles for one person

bi-week-ly /baɪ'wiːkli/ *adv, adj* appearing or happening a every two weeks; *FORTNIGHTLY*: *a biweekly magazine* **b** twice a week; *SEMIWEEKLY*

bi-zarre /bɪ'zɑːr/ *adj* noticeably odd or strange: *his bizarre appearance/behaviour* | *This is one of the most bizarre murder cases we have ever dealt with.* — *~ly adv*

BL /,bɪː'el/ *BRITISH LEYLAND*

blab /blæb/ *v* -**bb-** [I] *infml* to tell a secret, esp. about criminal activity, sometimes unintentionally

blab-ber /'blæbə/ *v* [I (ON)] *infml* to talk foolishly or too much: *I wish she'd stop blabbering (on) about her boyfriends.*

blab-ber-mouth /'blæbəmaʊθ||-ər-/ *n* *derog sl* a person who tells secrets by talking too much

black¹ /blæk/ *adj* **1** of the colour of night; completely without light: *black shoes* | *black clouds* | *her thick black hair* | (fig.) *Go wash your hands — they're black!* (=very dirty) **2 a** (of a person) of a dark-skinned race, esp. of the Negro race: *a black American* **b** of or for black people: *black Africa* | *He's trying to win the black vote.* —see USAGE; compare WHITE¹ (3) **3** (of coffee) without milk or cream: *I'll have my coffee black, please.* —opposite **white** **4** very bad, threatening, or hopeless: *According to the latest sales figures, things look very black for us.* | *black despair* | *She painted a black picture of the company's prospects.* —see also BLACK COMEDY, BLACK HUMOUR **5** full of anger, hate, or evil: *He gave me a black look.* | (lit) *a black-hearted villain* | (lit) *his black deeds* **6 esp. BrE** not approved of, or not to be handled, by members of a trade union during a STRIKE: *a black cargo* | *black labour* **7 any colour so long as it's black** *quote* a phrase used by Henry Ford when he was asked what colours were available for a particular kind of car **8 not as black as one is painted** not as bad as people say one is —see also BLACKLY, BLACK AND WHITE, PITCH BLACK — **~ness n** [U]

▷ USAGE Compare **black**, **coloured**, and **Negro**. **Black** is the word which is preferred by many black people. **Coloured** and, esp., **Negro** are now considered by many black people to be offensive. In the US, many black people prefer to be called **African-Americans** in formal situations such as in newspapers or government statements.◀

black² *n* **1** [U] the colour that is black; the darkest colour: *After her husband died, she dressed in black for a year.* | *Put some more black* (=black colouring) *round your eyes.*

► CULTURAL NOTE **Black** is often thought of as the colour of evil and death. People wear black clothes to show grief at a person's death.◀

2 [C] a person of a dark-skinned race: *There were both blacks and whites at the meeting.* **3 in the black** having money in a bank account: *Our account is (nicely) in the black this month.* —opposite **in the red**

black³ *v* [T] **1** to make black: *to black shoes* | *to black*

someone's eye by hitting them **2 BrE** (esp. of a trade union) to refuse to work with (goods, a company, etc.): *They've blacked his ships because he refuses to recognize the union.*

black out *v* **1** [T](black sthg. ↔ out) to darken so that no light is seen: *During the war the cities were all blacked out.* | *The whole country was blacked out because of the power strike.* **2** [I] to lose consciousness; faint: *After the accident he blacked out and couldn't remember what happened.* **3** [T](black sthg. ↔ out) prevent (news or information) from becoming publicly known; SUPPRESS: *They blacked out all reports of the anti-government demonstration.* | (fig.) *He blacked the terrible accident out of his mind.* —see also BLACKOUT

Black, Cil-la /'sɪlə/ (1943–) an English popular music singer and entertainer from Liverpool, successful as a singer in the 1960s, now best known in Britain as the presenter of the television show *Blind Date*

black-a-moor /'blækəmuə/ *n* old use or humor, derog a black person, esp. a man

black and blue /, · · '· / *adj* (having the skin) darkly discoloured as the result of being hit, esp. repeatedly; bruised (BRUISE): *After the fight, he was black and blue all over.*

Black and Tans /, · · '· / *n* [the +P] a British government military force named after the colours of their uniforms, formed to oppose the Irish organization Sinn Féin (1918–20)

black and white /, · · '· / *n* [U] **1** the showing of pictures in black, white, and grey, without additional colours: *an old film in black and white* | *a black-and-white television* **2** usu. derog a too simple way of explaining events, in which people or things are regarded as either completely good or completely bad: *She sees the situation very much in black and white terms, but in fact it's much more complicated than that.* **3** in black and white in writing: *I want this agreement in black and white.*

black art /, · '· / also **black arts** *pl.* — *n* [the] BLACK MAGIC

black-ball /'blækbɔ:l/ *v* [T] to vote against (a person who wants to join a club)

Black Beau-ty /, · '· / the name of a horse, the central character of a book of the same name, by Anna Sewell, written in 1877, and later filmed and made into a television programme

black belt /'·, · / *n* (a person who holds) a high rank in the practice of certain types of Eastern self-defence, esp. JUDO and KARATE —compare DAN

black-ber-ry /'blækbəri/ *n* the black or purple berry of a type of BRAMBLE: *blackberry jam* —see picture at BERRY —~ing *n* [U]: *to go blackberrying* (=picking blackberries)

black-bird /'blækbɜ:d/ *n* a common European and American bird of which the male is completely black

black-board /'blækbɔ:d/ also **chalkboard** *AmE* — *n* a dark smooth surface (usu. black or green) used esp. in schools for writing or drawing on, usu. with chalk —compare WHITEBOARD

black box /, · '· / *n* a FLIGHT RECORDER

Black-burn /'blækbɜ:n/ *n* a town in Lancashire, NW England, known for its engineering and making of TEXTILES

black com-e-dy /, · '· / *n* [C;U] (an amusing play, story, etc. based on) BLACK HUMOUR

Black Coun-try /'·, · / [the] an industrial area in the West Midlands of England

black cow /, · '· / *n* also **root beer float** *AmE* old-fash a drink made with ice cream and ROOT BEER: *Two black cows, please.*

black-cur-rant /, blæk'kʌrənt/ *n* a European garden fruit with small round blue-black berries: *blackcurrant jelly*

Black Death /, · '· / *n* [the] the illness (probably BUBONIC PLAGUE) that killed large numbers of people in Europe and Asia in the 14th century. In Britain the Black Death is connected with the men who went round the streets to collect the dead bodies calling out "Bring out your dead!"

black e-con-o-my /, · · '· / *n* [the] business activity that is

carried on unofficially, esp. in order to avoid taxation: *the recent growth in the black economy* —compare BLACK MARKET

black-en /'blækən/ *v* [I;T] to make or become black or dark: *The sky blackened as the rainclouds approached.* | *The smoke had blackened the white walls of the kitchen.* | (fig.) *false accusations that blackened her good name*

black En-glish /, · '· / *n* [U] the variety of English that is spoken by some black Americans and by some black British people in the US

black eye /, · '· / *n* darkness of the skin round the eye as a result of being hit: *If he says that again I'll give him a black eye.*

black-eyed pea /, · · '· / also **cowpea**, **black-eyed bean** *BrE* — *n* *AmE* (a plant which produces) a small bean with a black spot on it

black-face /'blækfeɪs/ *n* [U] a colouring of a white person's face so that they look black, used formerly by some entertainers, esp. in VAUDEVILLE: *Al Jolson used to appear in blackface when he sang "Mammy".*

Black-foot /'blækfʊt/ *n* [C; the+P] -foot or -feet (a member of) a Native American people living mainly in Montana and Alberta who were famous for their horses —see also NATIVE AMERICAN (CULTURAL NOTE)

Black For-est /, · '· / **1** [the] an area of SW Germany popular for holidays **2** *n* [C;U] a cake (GATEAU) made of chocolate, black cherries (CHERRY), and cream

black-guard /'blægərd, -əd/ *n* old use or humor a man of completely dishonourable character; SCOUNDREL: *You blackguard!*

black-head /'blækhed/ *n* a small spot on the skin with a black centre

Black Hills /, · '· / [the] a RANGE¹ (6) of hills in South Dakota where Mount Rushmore was carved

black hole /, · '· / *n* **1** *tech* an area in outer space into which everything near it, including light itself, is pulled **2** a place which seems to pull something, esp. money, into it **3** a crowded enclosed space with too little room or air

Black Hole of Cal-cut-ta /, · · '· / [the] a small room used as a prison in Calcutta, India. In 1756, 146 British people were put into the room, and most of them died in one night.

black hu-mour /, · '· / *n* [U] humour dealing with the unpleasant side of human life —see also BLACK COMEDY

black ice /, · '· / *n* [U] hard slippery ice that does not appear different from the surface of the road it covers: *Black ice made the roads extremely dangerous.*

black-ing /'blækiŋ/ *n* [U] a substance, such as a very thick liquid or polish, that is put on an object to make it black

black-ish /'blækiʃ/ *adj* slightly black

black-jack /'blækdʒæk/ *n* **1** [U] also **pontoon** *BrE* || **twenty-one** *AmE* — a card game, usu. played for money **2** [C] *AmE* for COSH¹ **3** [C] *AmE* for TRUNCHEON

black lead /, blæk 'led/ *n* [U] a black mineral substance, GRAPHITE

black-leg /'blækleɡ/ *n* *BrE* derog someone who continues to work when their fellow workers are on STRIKE; SCAB (3) —compare STRIKEBREAKER —**blackleg** *v* [I] -gg-

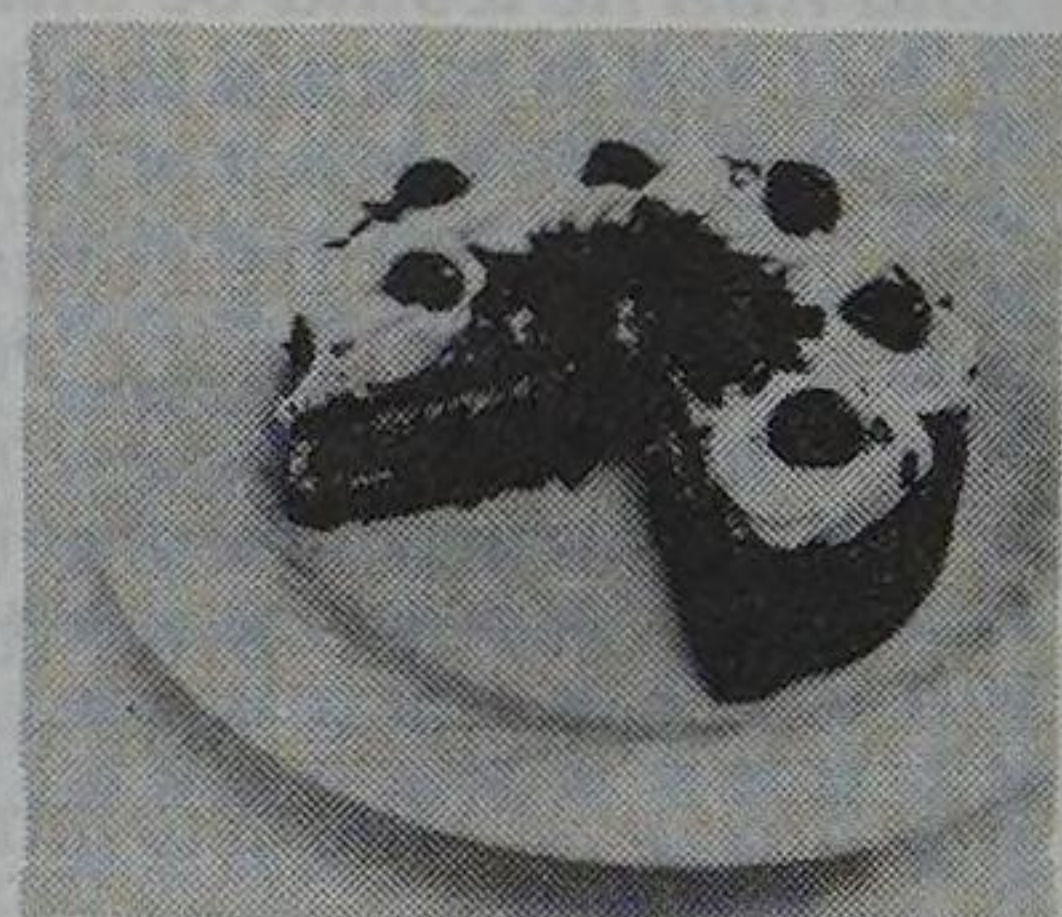
black-list /'blæk,lɪst/ *n* a list of people, groups, countries, etc., who are disapproved of for some reason and are to be avoided or punished in some way: *He was on a black-list because of his sporting connections with South Africa.*

► **CULTURAL NOTE** In the US during the 1940s and '50s, during the McCarthy period, many people in the film industry were put on an unofficial blacklist and could not get work because they were thought to be or admitted being COMMUNISTS. —see also MCCARTHYISM —**blacklist** *v* [T]: *black-listed for non-payment of debts* ◀

black lung /'·, · / *n* [U] *AmE* a lung disease of people who work in coal mines, caused by breathing in coal dust over a long period of time —compare SILICOSIS

black-ly /'blækli/ *adv* angrily or threateningly

Black Forest gâteau



black mag·ic /, · '·/ *n* [U] magic believed to be done with the help of evil spirits and used for evil purposes – compare WHITE MAGIC

Black Magic *tdmk* the name of a kind of plain chocolates sold in Britain in a black box

black-mail /'blækmeɪl/ *n* [U] **1** the practice of obtaining money or advantage by threatening to make known unpleasant facts about a person or group – compare HUSH MONEY **2** the influencing of someone's actions by threats, causing anxiety, etc.: *He accused his mother of using emotional blackmail to stop him leaving home.* – **blackmail** *v* [T (into)]: *Don't think you can blackmail me (into doing that).* – ~ **er** *n*

Black Ma·ri·a /,blæk mə'raɪə/ *BrE* || usu. **police wagon**, **paddy wagon** *AmE* – *n* *sl* a vehicle used by the police to carry prisoners

black mar·ket /, · '·-/ *n* [S] the buying and selling of goods, foreign money, etc., when such trade is not legal: *They bought dollars on the black market.* | *black-market butter* | *There's quite a big black market in foreign currency.* – compare BLACK ECONOMY

black mar·ket·eer /, · '·-/ *n* a person who sells things on the black market

Black Mass /, · '·/ *n* a ceremony in which worshippers of the devil use forms like those of Christian worship

Black Mon·day /, · '·/ Monday 19 October 1987, the day on which share prices on STOCK EXCHANGES (1) all over the word fell suddenly and steeply

Black-mo·re /'blækmɔːr/, **R D** (1825–1890) an English writer best known for his book *Lorna Doone*, a historical story which takes place on Exmoor, in Devon

Black Mus·lim /, · '·/ *n* a member of a group of black people who believe in the religion of Islam and want the establishment of a separate black society

black-out /'blækaut/ *n* **1** a period of darkness ordered by the government during wartime or caused by a failure of the electric power supply **2** a loss of consciousness for a short time: *She had a blackout after the accident and couldn't remember what had happened.* **3** a sudden turning off of stage lighting during a play **4** an intentional prevention of the reporting of certain facts: *The government imposed a news blackout on all information about the accident at the nuclear power station.* – see also BLACK out

Black Pan·thers /, · '·/ also **Black Panther Par·ty** /, · '·/ *fml* – a group of American black people in the 1960s and '70s who supported violent ways of obtaining changes in the law and better treatment for black people

black pep·per /, · '·/ *n* [U] PEPPER made from crushed seeds from which the dark outer covering has not been removed

Black-pool /'blækpuːl/ a town on the NW coast of England, a popular place for people, esp. WORKING-CLASS people, to go for the day or for a holiday. Blackpool is famous for its TOWER (the **Blackpool Tower**) and ILLUMINATIONS (=attractive coloured lights). It also has an important CONFERENCE centre. – see colour map on page 818

black pow·er /, · '·/ *n* [U] (*often cap.*) (a political movement in favour of) the belief that in any country black people should have a share of political and ECONOMIC power which is in accordance with the number of black people in that country

Black Prince /, · '·/, **Edward the** (1330–76) the oldest son of King Edward III of England, who wore black ARMOUR (1) in battle

black pud·ding /, · '·/ *n* [C;U] *BrE* a kind of thick dark-coloured SAUSAGE, made of animal blood and fat, and grain. It is usu. cut into SLICES and cooked in fat. Black pudding is connected in people's minds with the N of England, where it is popular, esp. with WORKING-CLASS people.

Black Rod /, · '·/ the name of the official who goes to the House of Commons to bring the members to the House of Lords for the Queen's speech at the opening of the British Parliament every year

Black Sea /, · '·/ [*the*] a large sea in SE Europe, connected to the Mediterranean by the Dardanelles and the Bosphorus

black sheep /, · '·/ *n* **black sheep** someone who is thought by other members of their group to be a failure or to have

brought shame on the group: *the black sheep of the family*

Black-shirt /'blækʃɜːt||-ʃɜːrt/ *n* a member of a FASCIST organization having a black shirt as part of its uniform (from the Italian Fascist Party before the Second World War, whose members wore black shirts)

black-smith /'blæk,smɪθ/ also **smith** – *n* a metalworker who makes and repairs things made of iron, esp. horseshoes

black spot /' · '·/ *n* *esp. BrE* **1** a part of a road where many accidents have happened **2** any place or area of serious trouble or difficulties: *The city is one of Britain's worst unemployment black spots.*

black-strap mo·las·ses /,blækstræp mə'læsɪz/ *n* [U] *AmE* a very dark MOLASSES (thick liquid produced from sugar plants) from which most of the sugar has been removed

black-tie /, · '·-/ *adj* (of parties and other social occasions) at which people wear EVENING DRESS (a DINNER JACKET and a black BOW TIE for men): *a black-tie dinner-dance* – see picture at EVENING DRESS, and compare WHITE-TIE

black-top /'blæktop||-tɑːp/ *n* *AmE* **1** the black substance used to cover roads, car parks, playgrounds, etc.; TARMAC **2** the area covered by this substance: *The children were playing kickball on the blacktop.*

Black Watch /, · '·/ [*the*] the common name for the Royal Highland Regiment, a REGIMENT (=large division of men) in the British army

black-wa·ter fe·ver /,blækwɔːtə 'fɪ:və||-wɔːtər-, -wɔː-/ *n* [U] a very severe form of the disease MALARIA, esp. in W Africa

black wid·ow /, · '·/ *n* a very poisonous type of SPIDER

blad·der /'blædə||/ *n* **1** a bag of skin inside the body of a person or animal, in which waste liquid collects before it is passed out **2** a bag of skin, leather, or rubber (such as the rubber bag inside a football) which can be filled with air or liquid

blade /bleɪd/ *n* **1** the flat cutting part of a knife, sword, etc.: *The blade needs sharpening.* | *a packet of razor blades* – see pictures at RAZOR, SWORD, and TOOL **2** the flat wide part of an OAR, a PROPELLER, a BAT, etc. **3** a long flat leaf of grass or a grasslike plant: *a blade of wheat* **4** *old-fash* an amusing irresponsible man – see also SHOULDER BLADE

blah¹ /blaː/ *adj* *AmE infml* dull; colourless; without strong taste: *a blah stew of vegetables* | *The inside of the house was pretty blah.* (=the decoration was uninteresting)

blah² *n* [U] **1** *BrE sl* empty talk; nonsense: *the usual blah about everybody working harder* **2** **blah, blah, blah** (used to show that more was said but that it was uninteresting) and so on: *He talked about boats and sailing blah, blah, blah.*

Blair /bleɪr/, **Li·o·nel** /'laɪənəl/ (1934–) an English dancer and choreographer (CHOREOGRAPHER), born in Canada, now known as a television personality

Blake /bleɪk/, **William** (1757–1827) an English poet and artist whose best known collections of poems are *Songs of Innocence* and *Songs of Experience*

blame¹ /bleɪm/ *v* [T] **1** to consider (someone or something) responsible for (something bad): *Don't blame me if it doesn't work – it's not my fault.* [+obj+on] *They blamed the failure of the talks on the Russians.* [+obj+for] *They blamed the Russians for the failure of the talks.* | *They blamed the rise in oil prices for the big increase in inflation.* | *If he fails the exam he's only got himself to blame.* (=it is his fault and no one else's) **2** to find fault with: *Critics blamed the documentary for its one-sided presentation of the situation.* | *"She's left her husband." "I don't blame her (=I quite understand her feelings/agree with her action), after the way he treated her."* **3** **be to blame (for)** to be at fault or be guilty (of): *The children were not to blame for the accident.*

blame² *n* [U (for)] responsibility for something bad: *The judge laid/put the blame for the accident on the driver of the car.* | *We were ready to take/bear the blame for what had happened.* | *It is the job of the committee to discover the cause of the accident, not to apportion blame.*

blame-less /'bleɪmləs/ *adj* free from guilt or blame; INNOCENT: *a blameless life* – ~ **ly** *adv* – ~ **ness** *n* [U]

blame-wor·thy /'bleɪm,wɜːði||-ɜːr-/ *adj* *fml* deserving blame or disapproval: *blameworthy behaviour* – **thiness** *n* [U]

blanch /blɑːntʃ||blæntʃ/ *v* **1** [T] to make (a plant or plant product) colourless by keeping it out of the light: *blanched celery* **2** [I] to become white or pale with fear, cold, etc.: *He blanched with shock.* **3** [T] to put (a fruit or vegetable) into very hot water for a short time, esp. in order to remove the skin more easily: *blanched almonds in a cake* | *Blanch the peaches and remove the skins before slicing them into the jar.*

blanc-mange /blɑː'mɒŋz, -'mɒndʒ||-'maː-/ *n* [C;U] a sweet dish consisting of a cold solid mixture of CORNFLOUR, sugar, milk, and other sweet foods

bland /blænd/ *adj* **1** (of food) without much taste: *This soup is too bland for me.* **2** (of people or their behaviour) showing no strong feelings or opinions or other noticeable qualities, esp. so as to avoid causing trouble or giving offence: *the radio station's bland coverage of the election campaign* — *~ly adv* — *~ness n* [U]

blatant /'blændɪ'mænts/ *n* [P] FLATTERY intended to persuade or influence a person, esp. to do something wrong: *She resisted his blandishments.*

blank ¹ /blæŋk/ *adj* **1** without writing, print, or other marks: *a blank page* | *Please write your name in the blank space at the top of the page.* | *If you press this key the screen will go blank.* | *a blank cassette* (=with nothing recorded on it) **2** empty or expressionless; without understanding or interest: *I tried to explain, but he just gave me a blank look.* | *My mind went completely blank and I forgot what I was supposed to be doing.* — *~ly adv* — *~ness n* [U]

blank ² *n* **1** an empty space: *Fill in all the blanks on the form.* | (fig.) *When I tried to remember his name, my mind was a complete blank.* **2** a BLANK CARTRIDGE — see also **draw a blank** (DRAW ¹)

blank cartridge /, ' -/ *n* a CARTRIDGE that contains an explosive but no bullet

blank cheque BrE || **blank check** AmE /, ' -/ *n* **1** a cheque signed and given to someone to write in whatever amount they want to receive **2** *infml* complete freedom to take whatever action one believes to be necessary to gain a result; CARTE BLANCHE: [+to-v] *She was given a blank cheque to get the company back on its feet.*

blanket ¹ /'blæŋkɪt/ *n* **1** a thick usu. woollen covering used esp. on beds **2** [(of)] a thick covering: *The valley was covered with a blanket of mist/snow.* — see also WET BLANKET

blanket ² *v* [T (with) usu. pass.] to cover as if with a blanket: *The country was blanketed with snow.*

blanket ³ *adj* [A] including all cases, classes, or possible events; unlimited: *a blanket rule* | *a blanket ban on smoking throughout the building*

blankety-blank /,blæŋkɪti 'blæŋk- / *adj* [A] AmE *euph infml* for DAMN ¹: *The blankety-blank key is stuck!*

blank verse /, ' -/ *n* [U] poetry that does not RHYME: *Most of Shakespeare's plays are written in blank verse.*

blare /bleə/ *v* [I;T (OUT)] (of a horn or other loud sound-producing instrument) to produce (sounds) loudly and unpleasantly: *The radio blared out (the news).* | *blaring car horns/sirens* — **blare** *n* [S] : *the blare of a brass band*

blarney /'blɑːni||-ɑːr-/ *n* [U] *infml* pleasant talk intended to persuade or deceive; FLATTERY

Blarney Stone /' - , / [the] a stone in the wall of Blarney Castle in Ireland, which is supposed to bring good luck and skill in FLATTERY to people who kiss it

blasé /'blɑːzeɪ||blɑː'zeɪ/ *adj* seeming not to be concerned, worried, or excited about something or about things in general: *The pop star is very blasé about money now.*

blaspheme /blæs'fɪz:m/ *v* [I (against);T] to speak without respect for or use bad language about (God or religious matters): *blaspheming (against) God* — *~phemer n*

blasphemy /'blæsfəmi/ *n* [C;U (against)] (an example of) disrespectful or bad language about God or holy things: *Their conversation was full of blasphemies.* | *What you're saying is blasphemy!*

► **CULTURAL NOTE** In Britain it is against the law to produce books or films which contain blasphemy against the Christian religion. Many people now think that this law is out of date and should either be got rid of, or changed to cover other religions in Britain. — compare SACRILEGE — **mous** *adj*: *a blasphemous suggestion* — **mously** *adv* ◀

blast ¹ /blɑːst||blæst/ *n* **1** [C] a sudden strong movement of wind or air: *the icy blast(s) of the north wind* **2** [C] an explosion: *Police say that the blast occurred at 3 p.m.* **3** [U] the very powerful rush of air caused by an explosion, esp. by a NUCLEAR explosion: *Enormous numbers of people would be killed by blast.* **4** [C] the loud sound of a brass musical instrument: *He blew several loud blasts on his horn.* **5** AmE *infml* an enjoyable party with many guests: *a beer blast* **6** [U;a] AmE *infml* an enjoyable and exciting experience: *We had a blast at the fair.* | *The bicycle trip was a real blast.* **7** (at) **full blast** as hard or as fast as possible; at full power: *We're working (at) full blast to complete the order before the holidays.* | *a car going at full blast down the motorway*

blast ² *v* **1** [I;T+obj+adv/prep] to break up (esp. rock) by explosions: *The road is closed because of blasting.* | *to blast away the face of the rock* | *They're blasting a tunnel through the mountain.* **2** [T] to attack with explosives: *The planes blasted the port.* **3** [T] lit to cause to dry up and die, esp. by great heat or cold, or by lightning: *Every green thing was blasted by the icy breath of winter.* | *a blasted oak* (=struck by lightning) | (fig.) *The news blasted (=destroyed) our hopes.* **4** [I;T] (used to express annoyance) DAMN: *Blast you!* | *Oh, blast!* | *Get that blasted dog out of here!*

blast off *phr v* [I] (of a spacecraft) to leave the ground; take off — see also BLAST-OFF

blast furnace /' - , / *n* a very tall steel container in which iron is separated from iron ORE by the action of heat and air blown through at great pressure

blast-off /' - , / *n* [U] the moment when a spacecraft takes off; TAKEOFF: *ten seconds to blast-off* — see also BLAST off

blatant /'bleɪtənt/ *adj* shameless; offensively noticeable: *his blatant disregard for the law* | *blatant disobedience/discrimination* — *~ly adv* — **tancy** *n* [U]

blather /'blæðə/ *n, v* BLETHER

blaze ¹ /bleɪz/ *n* **1** [S] (the sudden sharp shooting up of) a bright flame: *The fire burned slowly at first, but soon burst into a blaze.* | (fig.) *In a blaze of anger she shouted at them.* **2** [C] a big dangerous fire: *The firemen were unable to control the blaze.* **3** [S (of)] a bright show (of lights, colours, etc.): *The garden was a blaze of reds and yellows.* | (fig.) *The new car was launched in a blaze of publicity.* [S (of)] a rapid continuous firing of a gun: *a blaze of machinegun fire* — see also ABLAZE, BLAZES

blaze ² *v* **1** [I] to (begin to) burn with a bright flame: *A wood fire was blazing (away) in the hearth, but there was no other light in the room.* | *They fled from the blazing house.* | (fig.) *eyes blazing with anger* | (fig.) *Lights were blazing in every room.* | (fig.) *a blazing row* **2** [I (AWAY)] to fire guns rapidly and continuously: *blazing away at the enemy* **3** [T+obj+adv/prep; usu. pass.] to make (news) widely known: *The news was blazed in great headlines across the tops of the daily papers.* **4** **blaze a trail**: a to make marks along a TRAIL (=path) for others to follow b to lead the way, esp. in some new development or activity: *The company has blazed a trail with its innovative use of robots in manufacturing.*

blaze ³ *n* a white mark, esp. one down the front of a horse's nose

blazer /'bleɪzə/ *n* a loose-fitting JACKET sometimes with the special sign of a school, club, etc. on it: *a school blazer*

blazes /'bleɪzɪz/ *n* old-fash *infml* (used for adding force to expressions of extreme annoyance): *Go to blazes!* | *What the blazes do you think you're doing?*

blazon ¹ /'bleɪzən/ *n* a COAT OF ARMS

blazon ² *v* [T] **1** [(OUT, FORTH)] to declare loudly and publicly **2** [(on, with)] to EMBLAZON

bleach ¹ /bliːtʃ/ *v* [T] to cause to become white or pale, esp. by means of chemicals or by the action of sunlight: *to bleach handkerchiefs* | *hair bleached by the sun*

bleach ² *n* [U] a chemical used in bleaching: *My shirt was so dirty that I had to use bleach on it.*

bleachers /'bliːtʃəz||-ərz/ *n* [the+P] AmE cheap unroofed seats arranged in rows of different heights and used for watching a sport: *sitting in the bleachers on a hot summer day*

bleak /bliːk/ *adj* **1** cold and cheerless: *a bleak January day, with a cold wind and grey skies* | *a bleak hillside struck by the full force of the east wind* | *They showed me into a bleak waiting room with plain walls and a few*

uncomfortable-looking chairs. —see also IN THE BLEAK MID-WINTER **2** not hopeful or encouraging; DEPRESSING: *The company's prospects look pretty bleak.* | *The outlook for borrowers is bleak, as interest rates are certain to rise.* —*ly adv*

Bleak House /ˌˌ/ the title of a book by Charles Dickens, written in 1852–53

blear-y /ˈbliəri/ *adj* (esp. of eyes) red and unable to see well because of tiredness, tears, etc.: *A bad cold has made him bleary-eyed.* —*ily adv*: *He crawled blearily out of bed.* —*iness n* [U]

Bleas-dale /ˈbliːzdeɪl/, **Al-an** /ˈælən/ (1946–) an English writer of plays for television and theatre, best known for his television SERIES *Boys from the Blackstuff* and *GBH*

bleat¹ /bli:t/ *v* [I] **1** to make the sound of a sheep, goat, or CALF **2** *infml* to complain, esp. in a weak, shaking voice; WHINE: *As usual, the opposition are bleating about unfair coverage by the media.*

bleat² *n* [*usu. sing.*] the sound made by a sheep, goat, or CALF

bleed /bli:d/ *v* **bled** /bled/ **1** [I] to lose blood: *Your nose is bleeding.* | *He lay on the floor, bleeding profusely.* | (fig.) **My heart bleeds for** (=I feel very sorry for) *those poor children.* **2** [T] *infml* to make (someone) pay too much money; EXTORT money from: *He bled them for every penny they'd got.* | *They bled us white* (BrE) *'bled us dry* (AmE) (=took all our money). **3** [T] to draw blood from, as doctors did in former times to treat diseases **4** [T] to draw off liquid or air from (a machine or apparatus) in order to make it work properly: *to bleed the radiators in a central heating system* | *to bleed the brakes on a car*

bleed-er /ˈbliːdə/ *n* **1** BrE *sl* a person one does not like: *I told that bleeder not to come here again!* **2** BrE *sl* any person: *You lucky bleeder!* **3** AmE *infml* HEMOPHILIAC

bleed-ing /ˈbliːdɪŋ/ *adj* [A] BrE *sl* (used for giving force to an expression, esp. of annoyance) BLOODY²: *What a bleeding waste of time!*

bleeding heart lib-e-ral /ˌˌˌ/ also **bleeding heart**—*n* AmE *derog* a person who wants to help other people, esp. socially and politically, but who is not very practical and sometimes behaves as though they were better than the people they are trying to help

bleep¹ /bli:p/ *n* a high, usu. repeated, sound sent out by a machine to attract someone's attention —compare BLIP

bleep² *v* **1** [I] to send out bleeps **2** [T] BrE *infml* to call (someone) using a bleeper: *They're bleeping you, doctor.* **3** [T (OUT)] *infml* to prevent (a word or words) from being heard on television or radio with bleeps: *The obscene words in the song were bleeped (out).*

bleep-er /ˈbliːpə/ BrE || **beeper, pager** AmE—*n* a small machine which can be carried in a pocket, fastened to clothing, etc. and which bleeps when the attention of the person wearing it is needed

blem-ish¹ /ˈblemɪʃ/ *v* [T] to spoil the beauty or perfection of: *His reputation was blemished by a newspaper article alleging he'd evaded his taxes.* —see also UNBLEMISHED

blemish² *n* something that spoils perfection: *The wine glasses were sold at half price because of blemishes in the crystal.*

blench /blentʃ/ *v* [I] to make a sudden movement in fear; RECOIL

blend¹ /blend/ *v* **1** [T] to mix together thoroughly, esp. so that the different parts can no longer be separated: *Blend the sugar, flour, and eggs (together).* | *Blend the flour into the eggs and sugar.* —see MIX (USAGE) **2** [T] to produce (tea, coffee, WHISKY, etc.) out of a mixture of several varieties: *blended whisky* **3** [I (IN, INTO, WITH)] to become combined, esp. so as to produce a pleasing effect; HARMONIZE: *Their voices blend well with each other.* | *These houses seem to blend into the countryside.* | *The house blends in well with its surroundings.*

blend² *n* something produced by blending: *a good blend of coffee* | *His speech to the staff was a judicious blend of optimism and caution.*

blend-er /ˈblendə/ also **liquidizer** BrE—*n* a small electric machine used in the kitchen for making solid foods into soups, juices, etc. —see picture at KITCHEN

Blen-heim Pal-ace /ˌblenɪm ˈpælɪs/ a large country house in Oxfordshire owned by the Marlborough family, opened to the public at certain times

bless /bles/ *v* **blessed** or **blest** /blest/ [T] **1** to ask God's favour or protection for: *The priest blessed the new ship.* **2** to make or call holy: *The priest blessed the bread and wine.* | *Bless the name of the Lord!* **3** *old-fash* (in expressions of good-humoured surprise): *Bless me! He's won again!* | *Well, I'm blessed!* —compare DAMN⁴ (2) **4** **be blessed with** to be lucky enough to have: *I've always been blessed with good health.* **5** **Bless you!** (used when someone has sneezed (SNEEZE))

bless-ed /ˈblesɪd/ *adj* **1** holy; favoured by God: *the Blessed Virgin* (=the mother of Christ) | *Blessed are the peacemakers.* **2** [A] bringing happiness; desirable: *a few moments of blessed silence* **3** [A] *infml* (used to give force to expressions of annoyance): *It pours with rain every blessed time I go out.* —*ly adv* —*ness n* [U]

bless-ing /ˈblesɪŋ/ *n* **1** [C (ON, UPON)] an act of asking or receiving God's favour, help, or protection: *The blessing of the Lord be upon you all.* | *to ask a blessing* (=say a prayer of thanks to God) *before a meal* **2** [C] a gift from God or anything that brings happiness or good fortune: *When you feel sad, count your blessings.* (=remember how lucky you are) | *It was a blessing that no one was injured.* | *This rain will be a blessing for the farmers.* **3** [U] *infml* approval or encouragement: *The government has given its blessing to the new plan.* | *Do you think this was done with the President's blessing?* **4** **a blessing in disguise** something that seems unpleasant but is really a good thing after all: *The storm was a blessing in disguise because it kept us at home when you phoned.* —see also MIXED BLESSING

bleth-er /ˈbleðə/ also **blather**—*v* [I (ON)] esp. ScotE & NEngE to talk for a long time, esp. foolishly or untruthfully; CHATTER —**blether n** [C;U]

blew /bluː/ *v* past tense of BLOW

Bligh /blaɪ/, **Captain William** (1754–?1817) a British naval officer who was in command of the ship *HMS Bounty* when the men mutinied (MUTINY) —see also MUTINY ON THE BOUNTY

blight¹ /blaɪt/ *n* **1** [U] a disease of plants that results in the drying up and dying of the diseased parts **2** [C] something that causes annoyance, unhappiness, or destruction: *The accident cast a blight on our happiness.* **3** [U] a condition of ugliness, disorder, and decay: *the growing problem of inner-city blight*

blight² *v* [T] to infect or spoil with blight: *blighted fruit trees* | (fig.) *Her life was blighted by ill health.* | *blighted hopes*

blight-er /ˈblaɪtə/ *n* BrE *old-fash sl* **1** a person, esp. a man, one does not like: *I told that blighter not to come here again!* **2** any person: *You lucky blighter!* | *Poor little blighter!*

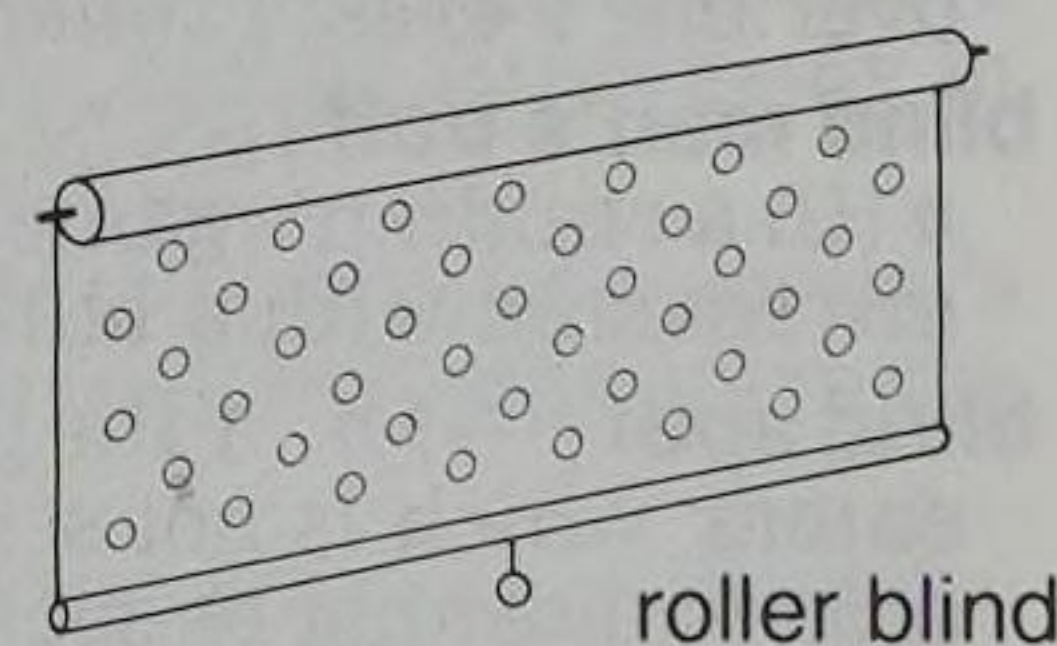
bli-mey /ˈblaɪmi/ *interj* BrE *sl* (used for expressing surprise)

blimp /blɪmp/ *n* a small AIRSHIP

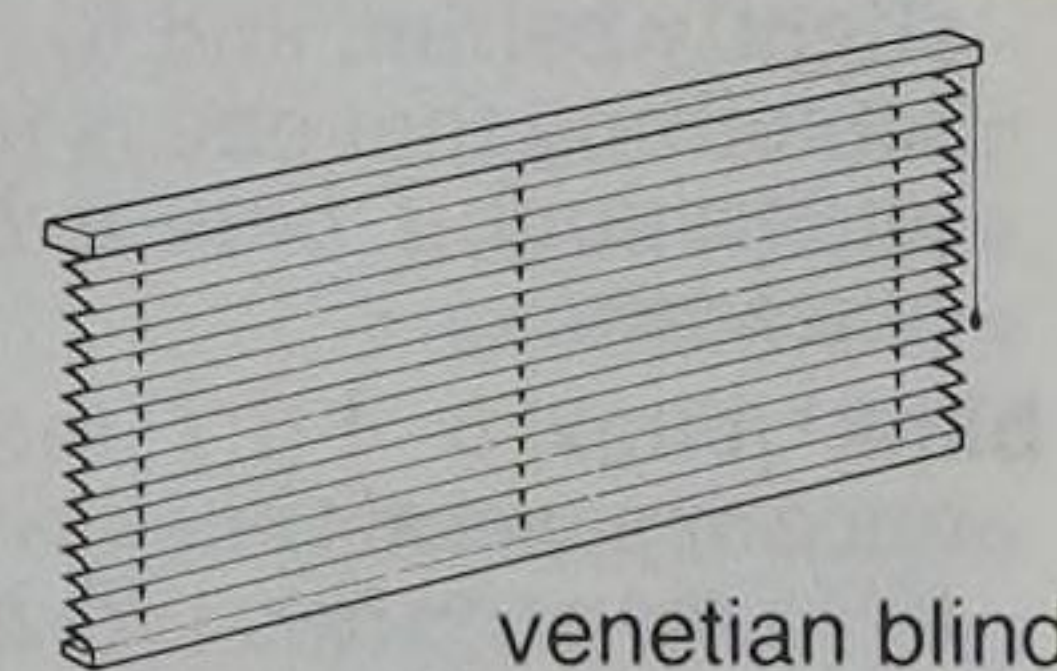
Blimp n see COLONEL BLIMP

blind¹ /blaɪnd/ *adj* **1** unable to see: *blind from birth* | *blind in one eye* [also *n*, the+P] a special library service for the blind —see BLIND² (USAGE), and see also COLOUR-BLIND **2** [A] intended for blind people: *a blind school* **3** [F (TO)] unable or unwilling to recognize or understand (something bad): *They seem to be blind to the possible consequences of this policy.* | *He is blind to her faults.* **4** without thought, judgment, or reason: *blind haste|anger* | *in a blind panic* | *blind faith|loyalty* **5** operating without purpose or human control: *the blind forces of nature* **6** done wholly by using instruments within an aircraft and without looking outside: *blind flying* | *flying blind* | *a blind landing* **7** at or in which it is difficult to see: *a dangerous blind corner|turning* **8** [A] BrE *sl* (used to add force to an expression) slightest: *I tried to warn her, but*

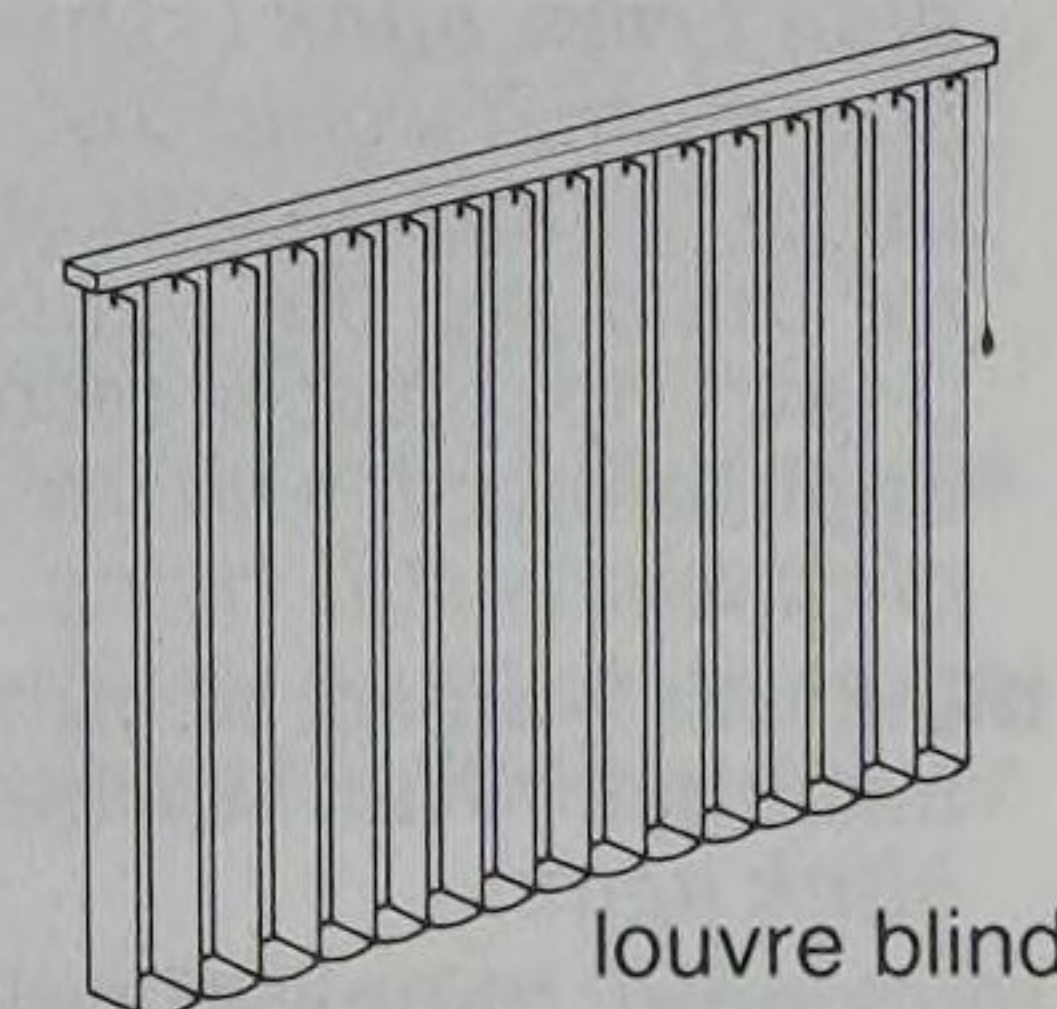
blinds



roller blind



venetian blind



louvre blind

she didn't take a blind bit of notice. | It doesn't make a blind bit of difference. **9 (as) blind as a bat** *infml* having difficulty in seeing: *I'm as blind as a bat without my glasses.* **10 (a case of) the blind leading the blind** people with little information advising people with even less **11 turn a blind eye (to)** to pretend not to see or notice (something, esp. something illegal): *You shouldn't really drink here, but I'm willing to turn a blind eye (to it).* — see also **effing and blinding** (EFF), and compare **turn a deaf ear to** (DEAF) — *~ly adv* — *~ness n* [U]

blind² *v* [T] **1** to make unable to see, either for a time or for ever: *The glare of the headlights blinded me for a moment.* | *blinded by the smoke* | *The soldier was blinded in battle.* | *blinded in one eye* | *a blinding flash of light* **2** [(to)] to make unable to notice or understand; take away the good sense or judgment of: *His determination blinded him to all the difficulties.* | *blinded by emotion* **3 blind with science** to confuse or fill with admiration by a show of detailed or specialist knowledge

▷ **USAGE** **Blinded** and **deafened** are used when we mention a particular event in which a person becomes blind or deaf: *He was blinded by dust/blinded in the war.* | *The music was so loud I was nearly deafened.* For describing a state use the adjectives **blind**, **deaf**: *He became blind.* | *a deaf child.* ◀

blind³ *n* **1** also **window shade** *AmE*— a piece of cloth or other material, which can usu. be rolled or folded up for covering a window — see picture at **KITCHEN**, and see also **ROLLER BLIND**, **VENETIAN BLIND** **2** a way of hiding the truth by giving a false idea: *His newspaper job was only a blind for his real business, which was receiving stolen goods.* **3 esp. AmE** a hidden place from which to watch animals, esp. when hunting; **HIDE**³

blind alley /, · ˈ · / *n* a little narrow street with no way out at the other end: *trapped in a blind alley* | (fig.) *We tried one idea after another, but they all seemed to be blind alleys.*

blind date /, · ˈ · / *n infml* a social meeting (DATE) between a boy and a girl who have not met before

Blind Date the title of a popular British television programme in which Cilla Black introduces people who choose an unseen partner for a blind date according to their answers to three less than serious questions. The two people usu. go away for a weekend together and then give an account of their experiences on a later programme.

blind drunk /, · ˈ · / *adj* [F] *BrE sl* extremely drunk

blind-ers /ˈblaɪndəz||-ərz/ *n* [P] *AmE for* **BLINKERS**

blind-fold¹ /ˈblaɪndfəʊld/ *n* a piece of cloth that covers the eyes to prevent seeing

blindfold² *v* [T] to put a blindfold on: *The prisoner was blindfolded.*

blindfold³ *BrE* || **blindfolded** *AmE*— *adv* with a blindfold over one's eyes: *I could do it blindfold.*

blind man's buff /, · ˈ · / || also **blindman's bluff** *AmE*— *n* [U] a children's game in which one child, whose eyes are covered with a blindfold, tries to catch the others

blind spot /ˈ · / *n* **1** the point in the eye where the nerve enters, which is not sensitive to light **2** a place or an area that cannot be seen easily, esp. the part of the road slightly behind and to the side of the driver of a car **3** something that one is unable and perhaps unwilling to understand: *I have a blind spot where computers are concerned.*

blink¹ /blɪŋk/ *v* **1** [I;T] to shut and open (the eyes) quickly, once or several times: *She blinked (her eyes) as the bright light shone on her.* | *He blinked away his tears.* | (fig.) *She didn't even blink (=show any surprise) when I told her how much it would cost.* **2** [I] (of distant lights) to (seem to) go rapidly on and off: *As the ship drew near to port, we could see the lights blinking in the darkness.* **3** [I+at;T] to refuse to recognize or think about (something unpleasant): *It's no use blinking (at) the fact that unemployment is still rising.* **4** [I;T] *AmE for* **WINK**¹ (2)

blink² *n* **1** an act of blinking **2 on the blink** *infml* (of machinery) not working properly: *The radio's on the blink again.*

blink-ered /ˈblɪŋkəd||-ərd/ *adj* **1** (of a horse) wearing blinkers **2 derog** showing an inability to understand or accept anything beyond one's own familiar ideas, customs, beliefs, etc.: *blinkered opinions* | *She's so blinkered!*

blink-ers /ˈblɪŋkəz||-ərz/ *n* [P] **1** also **blinders** *AmE*— a pair of flat pieces of leather fixed beside a horse's eyes to prevent it seeing objects on either side: (fig.) *David has blinkers on when it comes to politics.* **2 AmE for** **WINKERS**

blink-ing /ˈblɪŋkɪŋ/ *adj* [A] *BrE euph infml for* **BLOODY**²: *Don't be such a blinking fool!*

b'intze, blintze, blintz /blɪnts/ *n AmE* a thin flat breadlike cake made in Jewish cooking and rolled around cheese or fruit

blip /blɪp/ *n* **1** a very short sound produced by a machine, such as a RADAR apparatus or a machine that measures a sick person's heartbeat — compare **BLEEP** **2** an image produced by a RADAR apparatus **3** a short pause in a process, usu. caused by a small problem

bliss /blɪs/ *n* [U] complete happiness: *a young couple in married bliss* | *It's sheer bliss to be able to spend the day in bed.* — *~ful adj* — *~fully adv*: *blissfully happy* | *The passengers carried on drinking and dancing, blissfully unaware of the impending disaster.*

blis-ter¹ /ˈblɪstə/ *n* **1** a thin watery swelling under the skin, caused by rubbing, burning, etc.: *These new shoes have given me blisters.* **2** a similar swelling on the surface of things such as painted wood or a rubber TYRE

blister² *v* [I;T] to (cause to) form blisters: *When I play tennis my hands blister from holding the racquet.* | *The heat blistered the paint on the building.*

blis-ter-ing /ˈblɪstərɪŋ/ *adj* **1** very hot: *the blistering heat of the desert* **2** full of anger and severe disapproval; SCATHING: *a blistering attack on the government* — *~ly adv*: *blisteringly hot*

blister pack /ˈ · / also **bubble pack** *n* a packet for small products with a clear plastic front fixed to a thick paper backing

blithe /blaɪð||blaɪð, blaɪθ/ also **blithe-some** /-səm/lɪt— *adj* sometimes *derog* (esp. of a person's behaviour) happy and unworried: *a blithe lack of concern* — *~ly adv*: *They blithely carried on chatting, ignoring the customers who were waiting to be served.*

blith-er-ing /ˈblɪðərɪŋ/ *adj* [A] *sl* stupid; talking nonsense: *You blithering idiot!*

blitz¹ /blɪts/ *n* **1** also **blitz-krieg** /ˈblɪtskriːg/ a (period of) sudden heavy attack, esp. from the air **2** [(on)] *infml* a period of great activity for some special purpose: *an advertising blitz* | *Let's have a blitz on all these letters that need answering.*

blitz² *v* [T] to make blitz attacks on: *London was badly blitzed in 1940.*

Blitz [the] the repeated bombing of cities in Britain, esp. London, by the German airforce in 1940 and 1941: *The sound of the explosions reminded him of the Blitz.*

► **CULTURAL NOTE** When British people think of the Blitz, they often think of how people had to crowd together in places of safety, esp. the London Underground, during the bombing. If someone says that a situation is "just like the Blitz", they usu. mean that the situation involves a lot of loud noises and bright lights or that the situation is dangerous and involves people being forced together and helping one another. ◀

Blix-en /ˈblɪksən/, **Baroness Kar-en** /ˈkærən/ (1885–1962) a Danish writer (under the name **Isak Dinesen**) who wrote books in English and is best known for her filmed book *Out of Africa*

bliz-zard /ˈblɪzəd||-ərd/ *n* a long severe snowstorm — see **RAIN** (USAGE)

bloat-ed /ˈbləʊtɪd/ *adj* unpleasantly swollen: *the bloated body of a drowned dog* | *I felt absolutely bloated after our Christmas dinner.* | (fig.) *a bloated estimate of the cost*

bloat-er /ˈbləʊtə/ *n* a large fat fish (esp. a HERRING) that has been treated with salt and smoke

blob /blɒb||blɑːb/ *n* [(of)] a drop or small round mass: *a blob of paint on the floor*

bloc /blɒk||blɑːk/ *n* [C+*sing./pl.* *v*] a group of people (esp. politicians), political parties, or nations that act together: *the Communist bloc* — see also **EN BLOC**; compare **BLOCK**

block¹ /blɒk||blɑːk/ *n* **1** [C (of)] a solid usu. straight-sided mass or piece of hard material such as wood or stone: *a block of ice* | *The floor was made of wooden blocks.* — see picture at **PIECE** **2** [C] *esp. BrE* a large building divided into separate parts: *a block of flats* | *an office block* — see

picture at **HOUSE**, and see also **TOWER BLOCK** **3** [C] esp. *AmE* (the distance along one of the sides of) a building or group of buildings built between two streets: *The office is four blocks from here.* | *We live on the same block.* **4** [C (of)] a quantity of things considered as a single unit: *a block of seats in a theatre* | *a block of shares in a business* **5** [C *usu. sing.*] something that stops movement or activity: *a block in the water pipe* | *I seem to have a mental block about computers.* (=I can't understand them at all.) | *a novelist suffering from writer's block* (=feeling unable to write) —see also **ROADBLOCK** **6** [*the*] the large piece of wood, with a hollow for the neck, on which people's heads were cut off as a punishment in former times **7** [C] a piece of wood or metal with words or line drawings cut into the surface of it, for printing **8** [C] *tech* a physical unit of stored information on a **MAGNETIC TAPE** or **DISK**: *How big are the blocks on this tape?* —compare **BLOC**; see also **BLOCK AND TACKLE**, **BLOCK LETTERS**, **STUMBLING BLOCK**, **chip off the old block** (**CHIP**¹), **knock someone's block off** (**KNOCK**¹ (7))

block² *v* [T] **1** to prevent movement through: *Something's blocking the pipe.* | *a blocked pipe* | *The road was blocked by a big truck.* | *My nose is all blocked up and I can't breathe.* | *The police have blocked off the road where the bomb was found.* **2** [(OFF)] to shut off from view: *The trees outside the window block (off) the sun.* **3** to prevent from happening, advancing, or succeeding: *One of the directors blocked her appointment.* | *The legislation was blocked by the House of Lords.* **4** *tech* to limit the use of (a particular nation's money): *blocked currency*

block sthg. ↔ **in/out** *phr v* [T] to make a quick drawing showing the general idea of: *I've blocked in/out a rough plan of the campus.*

block-ade¹ /blɒ'keɪd||blɑː-/ *n* the surrounding of a place by warships or soldiers to prevent people or goods from coming in or going out: *They are threatening to impose a blockade on the country.* | *to run a blockade* (=get through it) | *to raise/lift a blockade* (=end it) —compare **EMBARGO**¹

blockade² *v* [T] to put under a blockade: *The ships blockaded the harbour.*

block-age /'blɒkɪdʒ||'blɑː-/ *n* **1** something that causes a block; **OBSTRUCTION**: *There's a blockage in the pipe somewhere.* **2** a state of being blocked: *The strike has caused a blockage in food supplies.*

block and tack-le /,blɒk.ə'tæk-/ *n* [C;U] an arrangement of wheels and ropes for lifting heavy things: *We moved the fallen tree with (a) block and tackle.*

block-bust-er /'blɒk,bʌstə||'blɑːk-/ *n* **1** *infml* something very effective or remarkable, esp. a very successful film or book: *The new James Bond picture is a real blockbuster.* **2** an extremely powerful bomb

block-head /'blɒkhed||'blɑːk-/ *n* *infml* an extremely stupid person

block-house /'blɒkhaʊs||'blɑːk-/ *n* **-houses** /,haʊzɪz/ a small fort used as a shelter from enemy gunfire or for watching dangerous operations (such as powerful explosions)

block let-ters /,blɒk.ˈlɛtəz/ also **block cap-i-tals** /,blɒk.ˈkæp.ɪ.təlz/ *n* [P] the writing of words with each letter formed separately and written in its **CAPITAL** (=big) form. It is usual to write in block letters when completing official forms: *Please write your name in block letters.*

block par-ty /,blɒk.ˈpɑːti/ *n* *AmE* a party held in the street for all the people living on that block

block vote /,blɒk.ˈvɔːt/ *n* a single vote that is made by a representative of a large group, such as a trade union, and is regarded as representing the votes of all the members of the group

Bloc Qué-bé-cois /,blɒk keɪbe'kwɑː||,blɑːk-/ a political party in Canada which wants the **PROVINCE** of Quebec to be a separate country

Bloem-fon-tein /'bluːmfənteɪn||-fɑːn-/ a city in South Africa, capital of Orange Free State

bloke /bləʊk/ *n* *BrE infml* a man

blond /blɒnd||blɑːnd/ *adj* **1** (of hair) light-coloured (*usu.* yellowish) **2** also **blonde fem.** — having light-coloured *usu.* yellowish hair and light skin —compare **BRUNETTE**

blonde /blɒnd||blɑːnd/ *n* a woman or girl with light-coloured, *usu.* yellowish hair. People sometimes use the phrase "Gentlemen prefer blondes", which is the title of

a book by Anita Loos. —see also **DUMB BLONDE**

Blon-del /blɒn'del||blɑːn-/ , **Nic-o-las Fran-çois** /'nɪkələs 'frɑːnswɑː/ (1618–86) a French military engineer and builder, known for the arch of Porte St Denis in Paris

Blon-die /'blɒndi||'blɑːn-/ the main character in a daily US **COMIC STRIP** of the same name. Blondie is a **HOUSEWIFE** who always gets an advantage over her husband Dagwood, *usu.* by using old-fashioned **FEMININE** tricks. For many people she is a **STEREOTYPE**.

Blon-din /'blɒndɪn||blɑːn'dæn/ , **Charles** (1824–97) a French **ACROBAT** whose real name was **Jean François Gravelet**, known for crossing Niagara Falls several times by walking across on a rope

blood¹ /blʌd/ *n* **1** [U] the red liquid which flows through the body: *The knife was covered in blood.* | *It was a serious cut and she lost a lot of blood.* | *The way they treat their children makes my blood boil.* (=makes me very angry) | *The sound of footsteps in the dark made his blood run cold.* (=frightened him) | *He's under police protection because he knows the rest of the gang are after his blood.* (=hate him/want to harm him physically) | (*lit*) *The invading army spilled the blood of our people.* (=killed them) **2** [U] family relationship: *a woman of noble blood* | *princes of the blood (royal)* (=of the royal family) | *Both her parents are actors so acting is/runs in her blood.* **3** [U] strong esp. unpleasant feeling; temper: *Her blood is up.* (=She is very angry.) **4** [C] *old use* a fashionable young man: *young bloods drinking and shouting in the street* **5** **Blood is thicker than water** saying Family relationships are stronger or more important than relationships with other people **6** **blood, sweat, and tears** *quote* a slightly changed phrase from a speech made by Winston Churchill in 1940. He said that all he could offer the British government and people was "blood, toil, tears, and sweat." **7** **get blood from/out of a stone** to try to get something, esp. money, from a person, group, etc., that is unwilling to give it: *Getting my boss to agree to a pay rise is like getting blood from a stone.* **8** **in cold blood** cruelly and on purpose: *They killed the old man in cold blood!* —see also **COLD-BLOODED** **9** **-blooded** /blʌdɪd/ having a certain kind of blood, or a certain character: *warm-blooded animals* —see also **BAD BLOOD**, **BLUE BLOOD**, **FLESH AND BLOOD**, **NEW BLOOD**, **RED BLOOD CELL**

blood² *v* [T *often pass.*] **1** *BrE* to give (someone) a first experience of a new activity; **INITIATE** **2** to give (a hunting dog) its first taste of blood

blood-and-thun-der /,blʌd.ə'tʌndə/ *adj* [A] *BrE* (of a film, story, etc.) full of exciting action and meaningless violence

blood bank /'blʌd.bæŋk/ *n* a store of human blood for use in hospital treatment

blood-bath /'blʌd.bɑːθ||-bæθ/ *n* the killing at one time of many people; **MASSACRE**

blood broth-er /,blʌd.ˈbrʌðə/ *n* one of two or more men who have promised loyalty to one another, during a ceremony in which their blood is mixed together

blood count /'blʌd.kʌnt/ *n* a medical examination of a person's blood to see if it contains all the right substances in the right amounts

blood-cur-dling /'blʌd,kɜːdlɪŋ||-ɜːr-/ *adj* extremely frightening; **HORRIFYING**: *bloodcurdling cries/stories*

blood do-nor /'blʌd.ˈdɒnə/ *n* a person who gives some of their blood for use in the treatment of other people who are wounded or ill. In Britain and the US, blood donors are not paid for giving blood.

blood feud /'blʌd.fjuːd/ *n* a long-lasting quarrel between people or families, with murders or physical harm on both sides

blood group /'blʌd.gruːp/ also **blood type**— *n* any of the four classes into which human blood can be separated according to the presence or absence in it of certain substances. The blood groups are called A, B, AB, and O.

blood heat /'blʌd.ˈhiːt/ *n* [U] a temperature about that of the human body; about 37°C

blood-hound /'blʌdhaʊnd/ *n* **1** a large hunting dog with a very sharp sense of smell, used for tracking people or animals **2** *infml* a **DETECTIVE**

blood-less /'blʌdləs/ *adj* **1** without killing or violence: *a bloodless victory/coup* **2** lacking in human feeling; lifeless: *bloodless statistics* —compare **BLOODY**¹ — ~ **ly** *adv* — ~ **ness** *n* [U]

- blood-let-ting** /'blʌd,letɪŋ/ *n* [U] 1 killing; BLOODSHED 2 the former medical practice of treating sick people by removing some of their blood
- blood lust** /'blʌd,lʌst/ *n* [C;U] a strong desire to kill or wound
- blood-mo-bile** /'blʌdmə,bɪz/ *n* *AmE* a special vehicle with equipment to take blood from people who are giving their blood for the treatment of others
- blood mon-ey** /'blʌd,məni/ *n* [U] 1 money paid for murdering or for helping murderers 2 money paid to the family of a murdered person
- blood plas-ma** /'blʌd,pləzma/ *n* [U] PLASMA
- blood poi-son-ing** /'blʌd,pɔɪzənɪŋ/ also *septicaemia tech-* *n* [U] a serious condition in which an infection spreads from a small area of the body through the blood
- blood pres-sure** /'blʌd,presʃə/ *n* [C;U] the measurable force with which blood travels through the body: *He suffers from high blood pressure.*
- blood red** /'blʌd,red/ *adj* red like blood: *a blood red sunset*
- blood re-la-tion** /'blʌd,reləʃən/ *n* a person related by birth rather than by marriage
- blood-shed** /'blʌdʃed/ *n* [U] the flowing of blood or killing of people, usu. in fighting; SLAUGHTER: *To prevent further bloodshed, the two sides agreed to a truce.*
- blood-shot** /'blʌdʃɒt/ *adj* (of the eyes) having the white part coloured red: *His eyes were bloodshot from too much drinking.*
- blood sport** /'blʌd,sport/ *n* [usu. *pl.*] *derog* the hunting and killing of birds and animals for pleasure: *The group campaigns against all blood sports, especially foxhunting.*
- blood-stain** /'blʌd,steɪn/ *n* a mark or spot of blood: *There were bloodstains on the floor where they had been fighting.* — *~ ed adj*: *bloodstained clothing*
- blood-stock** /'blʌd,stɒk/ *n* [U] horses that have been bred for racing: *a bloodstock auction*
- blood-stream** /'blʌd,stri:m/ *n* [(the)] the blood as it flows round the body: *The drug is injected directly into the bloodstream.*
- blood-suck-er** /'blʌd,sʌkə/ *n* 1 any creature, such as an insect or LEECH, that bites and then sucks blood from the wound 2 *derog infml* a person who uses other people for his/her own advantage, esp. to get money from them
- blood-thirst-y** /'blʌd,θɜ:stɪ/ *adj* 1 taking pleasure in killing and violence; eager for BLOODSHED 2 dealing with killing and violence: *a bloodthirsty movie* — *ily adv* — *-iness n* [U]
- blood trans-fu-sion** /'blʌd,transfʊʒən/ *n* [C;U] the process of putting blood from one person into another person's bloodstream, usu. after an accident or illness
- blood type** /'blʌd,tʃaɪp/ *n* a BLOOD GROUP
- blood ves-sel** /'blʌd,vessel/ *n* any of the tubes of various sizes through which blood flows in the body — see picture at TEETH
- blood-y** /'blʌdi/ *adj* 1 bleeding or covered with blood: *a bloody nose* 2 with a lot of wounding and killing: *a bloody battle* — compare BLOODLESS — *ily adv* — *-iness n* [U]
- bloody** ² *adj, adv* [A] *esp. BrE infml, not polite* 1 (used for giving force to an expression or judgment): *Don't be such a bloody fool!* | *It's bloody marvellous!* | *Bloody hell!* 2 (used as an almost meaningless addition to angry speech): *I got my bloody foot caught in the bloody chair, didn't I?* | *"Will you lend me £10?" "Not bloody likely!"* (=certainly not!)
- bloody ma-ry** /'blʌdi,məri/ *n* a drink made by mixing VODKA and TOMATO juice
- Bloody Mary** see MARY I
- bloody-mind-ed** /'blʌdi,mɪndɪd/ *adj* *BrE infml* opposing the wishes of others unreasonably and on purpose; intentionally unhelpful and OBSTINATE — *~ ness n* [U]
- Bloody Sun-day** /'blʌdi,sʌndaɪ/ Sunday, January 30th 1972 when British soldiers killed 13 people in Northern Ireland while trying to end a march against the British government's policy of INTERNMENT (=putting people in prison without a trial if they were thought to be involved with the IRA)
- bloom** ¹ /blu:m/ *n* 1 [C] *apprec* a flower: *What beautiful blooms!* | *The roses are in (full) bloom.* (=flowering) 2 [S;U] a covering of fine powder on ripe GRAPES, PLUMS, etc.
- 3 [the+of] *esp. lit* the best or most favourable time of: *in the bloom of youth* | *the first bloom of love*
- bloom** ² *v* [I] 1 to produce flowers, come into flower, or be in flower: *The roses are blooming.* 2 [usu. *in progressive forms*] to be in a healthy growing state; FLOURISH: *The children are blooming.* — compare BLOSSOM²
- bloom-er** /'blu:mə/ *n* 1 *BrE humor sl* a stupid mistake: *I made a terrible bloomer.* 2 *BrE* a loaf of bread which is baked at the bottom of the OVEN and has lines marked on the top
- bloom-ers** /'blu:məz/ *n* [P] 1 a woman's garment of short loose trousers gathered at the knee, worn in Europe and America in the late 19th century 2 *infml* for KNICKERS — see PAIR (USAGE)
- bloom-ing** /'blu:mɪŋ/ *adj, adv* [A] *esp. BrE* (used for giving force to an expression): *It's blooming ridiculous!*
- Bloom-ing-dale's** /'blu:mɪŋdeɪlz/ *n* a large DEPARTMENT STORE in New York City. It sells many different kinds of goods but is known esp. for selling expensive clothes.
- Blooms-bu-ry** /'blu:mzbəri/ *n* an area in Camden in the centre of London
- Bloomsbury Group** /'blu:mzbəri/ *n* [the] a group of artists and writers who lived and met each other regularly in Bloomsbury in the early part of the 20th century. The most famous member of the group was Virginia Woolf.
- bloop-er** /'blu:pə/ *n* *AmE humor sl* a stupid mistake
- blos-som** ¹ /'blɒsəm/ *n* 1 [C] the flower of a tree or bush, esp. one that produces fruit: *apple blossoms* 2 [U] the mass of such flowers on a single plant, tree, or bush: *a tree covered in blossom* | *pear trees in blossom* (=blossoming) | *cherry blossom*
- blossom** ² *v* [I] 1 (of a plant, esp. a tree or bush that produces fruit) to produce flowers: *The apple trees are blossoming.* 2 [(OUT)] to develop in a pleasing or favourable way: *a blossoming friendship* | *Jane is blossoming (out) into a beautiful girl.* | *He used to be very quiet, but he's really blossomed out* (=become cheerful and wanting to talk) *since he came to live here.* — compare BLOOM²
- blot** ¹ /blɒt/ *n* [(on)] 1 a spot or mark, esp. of ink, that spoils or makes dirty: *a blot of ink on the paper* | (fig.) *That hideous building is a real blot on the landscape.* (=it spoils the surroundings) 2 a fault or shameful action, esp. by someone usu. of good character: *a blot on one's character* 3 **blot on one's escutcheon** *BrE lit or humor* something shameful that spoils one's good record
- blot** ² *v* -tt- [T] 1 to make blots on: *She blotted the paper with ink spots.* 2 to dry with blotting paper 3 **blot one's copybook** *infml* to spoil one's good record: *She had a clean driving licence until she blotted her copybook by speeding.*
- blot** sthg. ↔ **out** *phr v* [T] to make (something) difficult or impossible to see; cover; hide: *The mist blotted out the sun.*
- blotch** /blɒtʃ/ *n* a large irregular spot or mark on the skin, one's clothes, etc.: *a blotch of ink on my dress* — *~ y adj*: *blotchy skin*
- blot-ter** /'blɒtə/ *n* 1 a large piece of blotting paper against which writing paper can be pressed to dry the ink 2 *AmE* a book where records are written every day, before the information is stored elsewhere (often in the phrase **police blotter**)
- blotting pa-per** /'blɒtɪŋ,pəpə/ *n* [U] special thick soft paper used to dry wet ink on paper after writing
- blot-to** /'blɒtəʊ/ *adj* [F] *BrE sl* extremely drunk
- blouse** /blaʊz/ *n* **blouses** /'blaʊzɪz/ *n* a garment for women, similar to a shirt, reaching from the neck to the waist or below: *She was wearing a black skirt and a white blouse.*
- blow** ¹ /bləʊ/ *v* **blew** /blu:z/, **blown** /bləʊn/ 1 [I] to send out a strong current of air: *The wind is blowing hard tonight.* | *She blew on her coffee to cool it down.* 2 [I+adv/prep; T+obj+adv/prep] to move by the force of a current of air: *The wind blew my hat off.* | *flags blowing in the wind* | *I shut the window to stop my papers blowing about.* | *I blew the dust off the book.* | *A sudden draught blew the door shut.* | *The force of the explosion blew the car into the air.* | *Several trees were blown down in the storm.* 3 [I;T] to (cause to) sound by blowing: *to*

blow a trumpet | *The horn blew loudly.* **4** [T] to make or give shape to (glass) by blowing: *to blow glass* | *He blew a beautiful glass animal.* **5** [I;T] **a** (of an electrical FUSE) to suddenly stop working because a part has melted: *The iron's not working — the fuse must have blown.* **b** to cause (a fuse) to do this **6** [T] *sl* to lose (a favourable chance) as the result of foolishness; BUNGLER: *We've blown our chances of getting the contract.* | *I've blown it!* **7** [T (on)] *sl* to spend (money) freely or wastefully: *They blew about £5000 on a holiday.* **8** [I] *sl* to leave suddenly and quickly: *Let's blow before they catch us!* **9** [T] *BrE euph sl* for DAMN: *Blow it! I've missed my train.* | *Well, I'll be blown!* *He's won again!* | *Well, blow me (down)!* **10** **blow hot and cold (about)** *infml* to be changeable in one's opinions, esp. by seeming sometimes interested and at other times not interested in a plan **11** **blow one's lines** to make a mistake when speaking in a play **12** **blow one's nose** to clean the nose by forcing a sudden current of air through it into a handkerchief **13** **blow one's own trumpet/horn** *infml., usu. derog* to praise oneself: *She's very good at blowing her own trumpet.* **14** **blow one's top/stack** *sl* to explode with anger, lose one's temper **15** **blow someone a kiss** to kiss one's hand and then wave or blow over it towards the person one would like to receive the kiss **16** **blow someone's brains out** *infml* to kill someone by a shot through the head **17** **blow someone's mind** *sl* to fill someone with wonder; AMAZE —see also MIND-BLOWING **18** **blow something sky-high** to destroy something completely with an explosion: (fig.) *The new evidence blew the suspect's alibi sky-high.* **19** **blow the gaff** *BrE old-fash* to let something secret become known **20** **blow the whistle on** *sl* to cause something undesirable to stop, esp. by bringing it to the attention of the public: *It's about time someone blew the whistle on his dishonest practices.* **21** **blow town** *AmE sl* to leave a town suddenly **22** **There she blows!** (supposed to be said on a WHALE-hunting ship by the first person who sees a WHALE)

blow sbdy. ↔ **away** *phr v* [T] *AmE sl* to kill by shooting with a gun

blow in *phr v* [I] **1** *infml* to arrive, often unexpectedly: *Jim has just blown in: we weren't expecting him until Tuesday.* **2** *tech* (of an oil well) to start producing

blow off *phr v* [T (blow sthg./sbdy. off)] *AmE sl* to treat something or someone as unimportant; to not pay attention to: *He blew off his tests without a thought for the future.* | *Mom wanted me to stay in and study but I blew her off.*

blow out *phr v* **1** [I;T (=blow sthg. ↔ out)] to (cause to) stop burning by blowing: *I blew the candle out.* **2** [I] (esp. of a TYRE) to burst: *The tyre blew out as I was driving to work.* —see also BLOWOUT

blow over *phr v* [I] **1** (of bad weather) to stop blowing; come to an end: *The storm has blown over.* **2** to be forgotten or no longer important: *It caused a scandal at the time, but the whole thing blew over in a few weeks.*

blow up *phr v* **1** [I;T (=blow sthg. ↔ up)] to (cause to) explode or be destroyed by exploding: *to blow up a bridge* | *The plane blew up in midair.* | (fig.) *Her father blew up (=was very angry) when she came home at 3 o'clock in the morning.* **2** [I;T (=blow sthg. ↔ up)] to (cause to) become firm by filling with air: *We've got a rubber boat that blows up.* | *Be sure to blow up the tyres before you set off.* **3** [T] (blow sthg. ↔ up) to make (a photograph) larger **4** [T] (blow sthg. ↔ up) to cause (something) to appear more serious or important than it really is; EXAGGERATE: *It was just a minor disagreement but it was blown up out of all proportion by the media.* **5** [I] (of bad weather) to begin to develop or arrive: *There's a storm blowing up.* | (fig.) *Our old argument has blown up again.* —see also BLOW-UP

blow² *n* **1** [C] an act or example of blowing: *Give your nose a good blow.* **2** [S] *infml* a strong wind or windy storm

blow³ *n* **1** a hard stroke with the open or closed hand or with a weapon: *a blow on the head* | *The children came to blows with each other.* (=started fighting) | (fig.) *They struck a blow for freedom by assassinating the colonial governor.* **2** [(to)] (an action or event that has) a bad effect on one's confidence, hopes, likelihood of SUCCESS, etc.: *Being beaten by a younger man came as/was a big blow to his pride.* | *The sudden rise in oil prices has dealt a (serious) blow to the company's chances of recovery.* **3** a shock or misfortune: *It was a great blow to her when her mother died.* —see also BODY BLOW, DEATHBLOW

blow-by-blow /ˌblɔːˈbaɪˈblɔː/ *adj* [A] with full details; describing all the events in the order in which they happened: *I want a blow-by-blow account of the match/the meeting.*

blow-dry /ˈblɔːˌdraɪ/ *v* [T] to dry and usu. give a shape to (hair) with an electric dryer held in the hand —**blow-dry** *n*: *a cut and blow-dry* —**blow-dryer** *n*: *My blow-dryer broke, I need a new one.*

blow-er /ˈbləʊə/ *n* **1** [C] a machine that blows: *to use a snow blower to clear snow from the roads* **2** [the] *BrE sl* the telephone: *Get on the blower to him at once!* —see also GLASSBLOWER

blow-fly /ˈbləʊflaɪ/ *n* a fly that lays its eggs esp. on meat or in wounds

blow-hard /ˈbləʊhɑːd/ *n* *AmE infml* someone who has too high an opinion of himself/herself; BRAGGART

blow-hole /ˈbləʊhəʊl/ *n* **1** a hole in the surface of ice to which water animals (such as SEALS) come to breathe **2** a NOSTRIL in the top of the head of a WHALE

blow job /ˈblɔːˌdʒɒb/ *n* *taboo sl* for FELLATIO

blow-lamp /ˈbləʊlæmp/ *esp. BrE* || **blow-torch** /-ˌtɔːtʃ/ *esp. AmE* — *n* a lamp or gas-pipe from which a mixture of gas and air is blown out under pressure to give a small very hot flame, used esp. for burning off paint

blown /bləʊn/ *past participle* of BLOW

blow-out /ˈbləʊaʊt/ *n* **1** a sudden bursting of a TYRE: *We had a blowout and crashed the car.* **2** *sl* a very big meal —see also BLOW¹ out

blow-pipe /ˈbləʊpaɪp/ also **blow-gun** /-ɡʌn/ — *n* a tube for blowing small stones, poisoned ARROWS, or DARTS, used as a weapon

blow-torch /ˈblɔːˌtɔːtʃ/ *n* *esp. AmE* a blow-lamp

blow-up /ˈblɔːˌʌp/ *n* **1** [(of)] a photographic ENLARGEMENT: *Look at this blow-up of the child's face.* **2** a sudden moment of anger —see also BLOW up

blow-y /ˈbləʊi/ *adj infml* windy: *a blowy day*

blow-zy, **blowsy** /ˈbləʊzi/ *adj* (of a woman) fat, dirty, red-faced, and untidily dressed

BLT /ˌbiːˌelˈtiː/ *n* *AmE infml* bacon, lettuce, and tomato; a sandwich made with these foods

blub-ber¹ /ˈblʌbə/ *n* [U] the fat of sea animals, esp. WHALES, from which oil is obtained

blubber² *v* *old-fash, usu. derog* **1** [I] to WEEP (=cry tears) noisily: *I wish you'd stop blubbering! I can't hear what you're saying.* **2** [T (OUT)] to say while crying in this way: *He blubbered out a pathetic apology.*

blud-geon¹ /ˈblʌdʒən/ *n* a heavy-headed stick used as a weapon

bludgeon² *v* [T] to hit (someone) repeatedly with something heavy: *They bludgeoned him to death.*

bludgeon sbdy. **into** sthg. *phr v* [T] to force (someone) to do (something) by threats or repeated arguments: *They bludgeoned him into submission/into letting them borrow the car.*

blue¹ /bluː/ *adj* **1** of the colour of the clear sky or of the deep sea on a fine day: *She wore a dark blue dress.* | *He painted the door blue.* | *an ambulance with its blue lights flashing* | *Your hands are blue with cold.*

► **CULTURAL NOTE** Blue is often thought of as a male colour. Boy babies are sometimes given blue clothes and girl babies, pink. ◀

2 [F] *infml* sad and without hope; DEPRESSED: *I'm feeling rather blue today.* **3** *infml* concerned with sex; rather improper; RISQUE: *Some of her jokes were a bit blue.* —see also BLUE FILM **4** **till one is blue in the face** unsuccessfully for ever: *You can call that dog till you're blue in the face but he'll never come.* — ~ **ness** *n* [U]

blue² *n* **1** [C;U] the colour that is blue: *dressed in blue* | *A light blue would be a nice colour for the curtains.* | *The room was painted in various shades of blue.* **2** [C] *BrE (usu. cap.)* (a title given to) a person who has represented Oxford or Cambridge University in a sport: *He's a rugger Blue.* **3** [C] *AustrE sl* a fight **4** *AmE (usu. cap.)* (a member of) the army in the US Civil War which fought for the US to remain whole and against slavery (the UNION army): *The Blue and the Gray* —see also GRAY **5** **out of the blue** unexpectedly: *John arrived completely out of the blue.* —see also BLACK AND BLUE, BLUES, NAVY BLUE, PRUSSIAN BLUE, ROYAL BLUE, SKY-BLUE, TRUE-BLUE, **bolt from the blue** (BOLT¹ (6))

- blue ba-by** /'bʌ. bi/ *n* a baby whose skin is slightly blue when it is born because there is something wrong with its heart
- Blue-beard** /'blu:biəd||-biəd/ a wicked character in old European stories who married and killed one wife after another
- blue-bell** /'blu:bel/ *n* a blue bell-shaped flower, esp. the wild HYACINTH
- blue-ber-ry** /'blu:bəri||-beri/ *n* (the blue-black fruit of) a low bushy plant growing in N America —compare BILBERRY
- blue-bird** /'blu:bɜ:d||-bɜ:rd/ *n* a small blue singing bird of N America
- Blue Birds** /'bʌ. bɜ:z/ (in the US) a division of the Camp Fire club for younger girls and boys
- blue-black** /'bʌ. ʌ/ *adj* very dark blue
- blue blood** /'bʌ. blʌd/ *n* [U] the quality of being a nobleman or noblewoman by birth: *Members of noble families are said to have blue blood in their veins.* —**blue-blooded** /'bʌ. blʌd/ *adj*
- blue book** /'bʌ. bʊk/ *n* **1** an official report printed by the British Government, usu. the report of a committee —compare GREEN PAPER, WHITE PAPER **2** a book of paper with a blue cover which is used in American colleges for writing answers to examination questions
- blue-bot-tle** /'blu:bɒt||-bɒ:tl/ *n* a large blue fly; the meat fly or BLOWFLY
- blue cheese** /'bʌ. tʃi:z/ *n* [C;U] (a) cheese marked with blue lines of decay
- blue chip** /'bʌ. tʃip/ *n, adj* (an industrial share) that is expensive and in which people have confidence: *We only deal with blue chip companies.*
- blue-col-lar** /'bʌ. kɒl||-kɒ:l/ *adj* [A] of or concerning workers who do hard or dirty work with their hands: *blue-collar workers* | *a blue-collar union* —compare PINK-COLLAR, WHITE-COLLAR
- Blue Cross** /'bʌ. kɒs/ an American medical insurance company
- Blue Dan-ube** /'blu: 'dænjʊ:b/ *The* the title of an extremely popular WALTZ written by the younger Johann Strauss in 1866
- blue-eyed boy** /'bʌ. i:z/ *n infml, esp. BrE, usu. derog* someone's favourite (male) person: *Smith is the boss's blue-eyed boy at the moment.*
- blue film** /'bʌ. fɪlm/ also **blue movie** — *n* a film about sex; a pornographic film (PORNOGRAPHY) —see also BLUE¹ (3)
- blue-fish** /'blu:fɪʃ/ *n* **bluefish** a sea fish with a bluish colour which is caught for sport and food off the coast of N America
- blue-grass** /'blu:græs||-græs/ *n* [U] **1** a kind of lively music from the Southern US, played on instruments with strings such as the GUITAR, VIOLIN, and BANJO, and usu. without an AMPLIFIER to make it louder: *a bluegrass band/concert* **2** a type of grass found in N America, esp. in Kentucky, which is known as "the Bluegrass State"
- blue gum** /'bʌ. gʌm/ *n* an Australian tree of the EUCALYPTUS family
- blue jay** /'bʌ. dʒi/ *n* a common N American bird with a blue back and a growth of big blue feathers on its head
- blue jeans** /'bʌ. dʒi:z/ *n* [P] *AmE* for JEANS
- blue law** /'bʌ. lɔ:/ *n AmE infml* a law to control sexual morals, the drinking of alcohol, working on Sundays, etc.
- blue moon** /'bʌ. mu:n/ *once in a blue moon infml* not very often: *We only clean the car once in a blue moon.*
- blue mo-vie** /'bʌ. mi:v/ *n AmE* for BLUE FILM
- blue mur-der** /'bʌ. mɜ:də/ *n* **scream/shout** **blue murder infml** to complain very loudly: *When the doctor stuck the needle into her arm, the child screamed blue murder.*
- Blue Nile** /'bʌ. ni:l/ one of the two main rivers which join together to form the River Nile proper, the other being the White Nile
- Blue Nun** /'bʌ. nʌn/ [U] *tdmk* a type of quite sweet white wine which is made in the Rheinhessen area of Germany for EXPORT to the UK; it is popular and not very expensive
- blue-pen-cil** /'bʌ. pen.sɪl/ *v* [T] *infml old-fash* to cross out anything offensive from (a piece of writing); CENSOR²: *to blue-pencil (the dirty words in) a play*
- blue pe-ter** /'bʌ. pi:tə/ *n* [(the+)S] (*sometimes cap.*) a blue flag with a white square in the middle, flown on a ship to show it is ready to leave port
- Blue Peter** a popular British television programme for children. *Blue Peter* is well known, by both adults and children, for supporting children's activities, showing them how to do and make useful things, and encouraging them to raise money for people in need: *a Blue Peter appeal* | *a Blue Peter badge*
- blue-print** /'blu:prɪnt/ *n* a photographic copy of a plan for making a machine or building a house or other structure: *the blueprints of a new engine* | (fig.) *The report is a blueprint for the reform of the nation's tax system.*
- blue rib-bon** /'bʌ. ri:bən/ *n AmE* a small blue piece of cloth given as first prize to the winner of a competition —see picture at ROSETTE —**blue-ribbon** *adj*: *a blue-ribbon recipe* (a prize-winning or very good recipe)
- blue rinse** /'bʌ. ri:n/ *n* a slight blue colouring of the hair, thought typical of old CONSERVATIVE¹ (1) ladies —**blue-rinsed** *adj*: *the blue-rinsed hordes who form the backbone of Tory support*
- blues** /blu:z/ *n* **blues** **1** [C;the+sing./pl. v] (a song in) a slow, sad style of music originally from the Southern US: *The blues was/were first performed by the black people of New Orleans.* | *a well-known blues singer* | *Play us a blues.* —see also RHYTHM AND BLUES **2** [the] *infml* the state of being sad; a feeling of deep unhappiness: *a sudden attack of the blues*
- Blues and Roy-als** /'blu:z ənd 'rɔ:z/ [the] a REGIMENT (=large division of men) in the British army
- Blues Broth-ers** /'blu:z brʌðəz/ *The* an American film with Dan Ackroyd and John Belushi, about 2 blues musicians —see colour picture on page 553
- blue-sky** /'bʌ. ski/ *adj* [A] *AmE* done in order to test ideas, rather than for any particular practical purpose: *blue-sky research*
- blue-stock-ing** /'blu:stɒkɪŋ||-stɒ:z/ *n derog old-fash* a woman who is thought to be too highly educated
- bluff¹** /blʌf/ *v* **1** [I;T (into)] to try to frighten or persuade (someone) by pretending to be stronger, cleverer, braver, etc., than one actually is: *The terrorists say they'll blow up the plane if their demands are not met, but the police think they're only bluffing.* | *He bluffed the police into thinking that his gun was loaded.* **2** **bluff it out infml** to escape trouble by continuing a deception: *George, here comes my husband; do you think we can bluff it out?* **3** **bluff one's way out (of)** to get out of (a difficult situation) by bluffing
- bluff²** *n* [S;U] the action of bluffing: *She threatened to sack me, but it's all (a) bluff.* —see also DOUBLE BLUFF, **call someone's bluff** (CALL¹ (15))
- bluff³** *adj* (of a person or manner) rough, cheerful, and direct, perhaps without considering the feelings of others; HEARTY: *He has a kind heart in spite of his bluff manner.* —**~ly** *adv* —**~ness** *n* [U]
- bluff⁴** *n* a high steep bank or cliff: *They sat on a bluff and watched the sea.*
- blu-ish** /'blu:ɪʃ/ *adj* slightly blue
- blun-der¹** /'blʌndə/ *n* a stupid unnecessary mistake: *I made an awful blunder — switched off his computer while he was working on it.*
- blunder²** *v* [I] **1** to make a blunder **2** [+adv/prep] to move awkwardly or unsteadily, as if blind: *He blundered through the dark forest.* **3** **someone had blundered** quote a phrase from the poem *The Charge of the Light Brigade* by Tennyson —see also CHARGE OF THE LIGHT BRIGADE —**~er** *n*
- blun-der-buss** /'blʌndəbʌs||-ə/ *n* a type of gun used in former times, which has a barrel with a wide mouth and fires a quantity of small SHOT¹ (5) for a short distance
- blunt¹** /blʌnt/ *adj* **1** (of a knife, pencil, etc.) not sharp: *My pencil's blunt — can I borrow your sharpener?* **2** speaking roughly and plainly, without trying to be polite or to hide unpleasant facts: *a blunt man* | *To be quite blunt, I think the government has made a complete mess of things.* —**~ly** *adv*: *To put it bluntly, I think your chances of passing the exam are almost non-existent.* —**~ness** *n* [U]
- blunt²** *v* [T] to make less sharp or forceful: *The bad weather has rather blunted their enthusiasm for going camping.*
- Blunt, Anthony** (1907–83) a British-born SPY for the Soviet Union, who worked as an art HISTORIAN and at one time

worked for the Queen. His activities as a spy were only made public in 1979, when his KNIGHTHOOD was taken away from him —see also Guy BURGESS, Donald MACLEAN, and Kim PHILBY

blur¹ /blɜːr/ *n* [S] something whose shape is not clearly seen: *The houses appeared as a blur in the mist.* | (fig.) *My memory of the accident is only a blur.*

blur² *v* -rr- [T] **1** to make (something) difficult to see or see through clearly: *Tears blurred my eyes.* | *windows blurred with rain* | *a very blurred photograph* **2** to make less clear or noticeable: *The newspaper report deliberately blurs the distinction between the union's members and its leadership.*

blurb /blɜːb||blɜːrb/ *n* **1** a short description of the contents of a book, printed on the cover or in advertisements **2** *infml* printed information, often in JARGON, which is produced by officials to provide details of something, esp. for people who may not know much about it: *estate agents' blurb* | *I can't be bothered to read all the blurb!*

blurt /blɜːt||blɜːrt/ *v*

blurt sthg. ↔ **out** *phr v* [T] to say suddenly and without thinking, esp. from nervousness or excitement: *Peter blurted out the news.*

blush¹ /blʌʃ/ *v* [I] to become red in the face, from shame or because people are looking at one: *He blushed (with embarrassment) when the girls whistled at him in the street.* | *It made me blush when the teacher told everyone how good my work was.* | *Here comes the blushing bride.* | (fig.) *When I see the prices that tourists are charged, it makes me blush.* (=I feel ashamed) | *I blush to think of the things I did when I was younger.* — ~ingly *adv*

blush² *n* **1** a case of blushing: *His remark brought a blush to my cheeks.* | *You shouldn't say such nice things about me — spare my blushes!* (=don't make me blush) **2** **at first blush** *fml* or *lit* at the first sight: *It seemed a good idea at first blush, but its drawbacks soon became apparent.*

blush-er /'blʌʃə/ *n* [C;U] (a container of) a cream or powder for colouring the cheeks

blus-ter¹ /'blʌstə/ *v* [I] **1** to speak loudly and roughly, in a noisy or BOASTFUL way **2** (of wind) to blow roughly — ~er *n*

bluster² *n* [U] **1** noisy or BOASTFUL talk **2** the noise of rough wind or waves: *the bluster of the storm*

blus-ter-y /'blʌstəri/ *adj* (of weather) rough, windy, and violent: *a blustery winter day*

blvd *written abbrev. for:* BOULEVARD

Bly-ton /'blaɪn/, **E-nid** /'iːnɪd/ (1897–1978) an English writer of books for children, who invented the characters of **Noddy**, the **Famous Five**, and the **Secret Seven**. Her books are very popular with children, but they have sometimes been criticized for SEXISM and RACISM.

BM¹ /,biː 'em/ *abbrev. for:* BRITISH MUSEUM

BM² *n* Bachelor of Medicine; the lowest level of medical degree

BMA /,biː em 'ei/ [*the*] British Medical Association; a TRADE UNION for British medical doctors

BMOC /,biː em əʊ 'siː/ *n* *AmE abbrev. for* BIG MAN ON CAMPUS

B-mov-ie /'biː ,muːvi/ *n* a cheaply-made cinema film not considered to be of very good quality

BMW /,biː em 'dʌbljuː/ *n* *tdmk* a high quality, expensive German car, generally considered to be PRESTIGIOUS and usu. driven by people who are successful in business

BMX /,biː em 'eks/ *n* [U] bicycle motocross; the sport of riding a bicycle, usu. a special bicycle with a strong frame and small wheels, over a course on rough ground: *a BMX bike*

B'nai B'rith /bəˌneɪ 'brɪθ/ an organization of Jewish people which aims to help Jews and others have better social and educational opportunities (OPPORTUNITY)

BNFL /,biː en ef 'el/ British Nuclear Fuels Limited; the company responsible for Britain's NUCLEAR power industry

BO /,biː 'əʊ/ *n* [U] body odour; an unpleasant smell from a person's body, usu. caused by SWEAT

bo-a¹ /'bəʊə/ also **boa con-stric-tor** /'.. .. / — *n* a large non-poisonous South American snake, that kills animals or people by crushing them

boa² also **feather boa** — *n* a long snake-shaped garment (a kind of STOLE) made of feathers, worn round a woman's neck esp. in former times

Bo-a-di-ce-a /,bəʊədʒ 'siːə/ see BOUDICCA

boar /bɔːr/ *n* **1** a male pig that is not castrated (CASTRATE) and is kept for breeding —compare HOG¹ (1, 2), SOW² **2** a WILD BOAR

board¹ /bɔːd||bɔːrd/ *n* **1** [C] a long thin flat piece of cut wood; PLANK —see also FLOORBOARD **2** [C] (*often in comb.*) a flat piece of hard material used for a particular purpose: *Pin the list up on the board.* (=the NOTICE BOARD) | *Put the bread on the board* (=the BREADBOARD) *before cutting it.* | *The teacher wrote a sum on the board.* (=the BLACKBOARD or WHITEBOARD) | *I want to play chess but I can't find the board.* (=the CHESSBOARD) **3** [U] (the cost of) meals: *I pay £30 a week for board and lodging/bed and board.* —see also BED AND BOARD, HALF BOARD, FULL BOARD; compare LODGINGS **4** [C+*sing./pl.* v] **a** an official body or group that has responsibility for a particular organization or activity: *the school's board of governors* | *a board of advisers/examiners* | *the English Tourist Board* **b** also **board of directors** — a committee of the directors of a company, which is responsible for the management of the company: *Mary is the only woman on the board (of directors).* | *The board is/are meeting tomorrow.* | *We'll need the approval of the board before we can do that.* **5** **go by the board** (of plans, arrangements, etc.) to be no longer possible or practical: *We had intended to get a new car, but that's gone by the board now that I've lost my job.* **6** **on board** in or on (a ship or public vehicle): *go/get on board the train/the aircraft/the ship* | *As soon as I'm on board I always feel sick.* —see BOAT (USAGE), PLANE (USAGE); compare ABOARD **7** **take on board** to fully understand or accept: *The management's offer shows that they have not really taken on board the union's demands.* —see also BOARDS, ABOVEBOARD, ACROSS-THE-BOARD, BIG BOARD, DRAWING BOARD, **sweep the board** (SWEEP¹)

board² *v* **1** [T (OVER, UP)] to cover with boards: *a boarded floor* | *Board the windows up.* **2** [T] to get into (a ship or public vehicle); go on board: *The hijackers boarded the plane at Heathrow Airport.* **3** [I+*adv/prep./T*] to get or supply meals and lodging for payment: *She arranged to board some students from the university.* | *I'm boarding with a friend/at a friend's house.*

board sbdy./sthg. ↔ **out** *phr v* [T] to arrange for (a person or animal) to live and get food away from home: *We'll have to board the cat out while we're on holiday.*

board-er /'bɔːdə/||'bɔːr-/ *n* **1** a pupil at a BOARDING SCHOOL **2** a person who pays to live and receive meals at another person's house; LODGER: *to take in boarders* **3** (in old naval fighting) a man who jumps onto an enemy ship: *Stand by to repel boarders!*

board game /'.. / *n* any game played on a specially made board of wood, card, or stiff paper, e.g. CHESS, Monopoly, etc.

board-ing /'bɔːdɪŋ||'bɔːr-/ *n* [U] boards laid side by side: *The windows were covered with boarding.*

boarding card /'.. / *n* an official card to be given up when one enters an aircraft

board-ing-house /'bɔːdɪŋhaʊs||'bɔːr-/ *n* -houses /,haʊzɪz/ a private lodging house, not a hotel, that supplies meals

boardinghouse reach /,... '.. / *n* [U] *AmE infml* the practice of reaching across the dinner table for what one wants, rather than asking for it to be passed to one

boarding school /'.. / *n* [C;U] a school at which pupils live as well as study. Most British PUBLIC SCHOOLS are boarding schools: *a small country boarding school* | *two daughters at boarding school* —compare DAY SCHOOL (1)

Board of Ed-u-ca-tion /,.. .. / *n* a group of people elected in each American COUNTY to make decisions on matters of education: *The Board of Education has supported bus-ing as a method of desegregating city schools.*

board-room /'bɔːdruːm, -rum||'bɔːrd-/ *n* a room in which the directors of a company hold meetings: *Nervous mut-tering is being heard in boardrooms all over the country.* —see also BOARD¹ (4b)

boards /bɔːdz||bɔːrdz/ *n* **1** [P] *tech* the covers of a book: *a book in cloth boards* **2** [*the*+P] *old use or pomp* the theatre; the stage: *He's been on the boards* (=been an actor) *all his life.*

board-walk /'bɔ:dwɔ:k||'bɔ:rd-/ *n* a footpath often made of boards, usu. beside the sea

boast¹ /bəʊst/ *v* **1** [I (about, of); T+that; obj] *derog* to talk or state with unpleasant or unreasonable pride: *He's always boasting about his children/about how clever his children are.* | *Don't believe her; she's just boasting.* | *He boasted that he could speak six languages fluently.* **2** [T not in progressive forms] *not derog* (not of people) to have or contain (something that is unusual or a cause of reasonable pride): *The new computer boasts a number of ingenious features.*

boast² *n* **1** *derog* an act of boasting **2** *not derog* a cause for being proud: *It is one of their proudest boasts that they have halved the death rate from typhoid.*

boast-er /'bəʊstə/ *n* *derog* someone who tends to boast

boast-ful /'bəʊstfəl/ *adj* *derog* (of a person or their words) full of self-praise — *~ly adv* — *~ness n* [U]

boat¹ /bəʊt/ *n* **1** (often in comb.) a small open vehicle for travelling across water: *a small fishing/sailing/rowing boat* | *a police patrol boat* | *We'll cross the river by boat/in a boat.* | *We had to take to the boats* (=get into the ship's lifeboats) *because the ship was sinking.* — see also FLYING BOAT, NARROW BOAT, and see picture at YACHT **2** *infml* any ship: *Are you going to America by boat or by air?* **3** (usu. in comb.) a boat-shaped dish for serving liquid food at meals: *a sauceboat* | *a gravy boat* — see picture at JUG; see also **miss the boat** (MISS¹), **push the boat out** (PUSH¹), **rock the boat** (ROCK¹), **in the same boat** (SAME¹)

▷ **USAGE** 1 Boats are usu. smaller than ships but the word can be used informally of a large passenger ship: *There were over 2000 passengers on the ship/boat.* **2** When you are in control of a **boat**, you **row** a rowing boat, **sail** a sailing boat, and **sail** or **pilot** other kinds of boat. When you direct the course of a boat you **steer** or **pilot** it. As a passenger you travel **by** boat, or **on** a particular boat. At the beginning of your journey you **get in(to)** a very small boat but with a bigger boat you **get on(to)** it, **go on board** or (*fml*) **embark**. At the end of your journey you **get out of** a very small boat, but with a larger boat you **get off** it or (*fml*) **disembark**. — see also **DRIVE**¹ (USAGE), **TRANSPORT** (USAGE), **VESSEL** (USAGE) <

boat² *v* [I] to use a small boat for pleasure: *Let's go boating on the lake.*

boat-er /'bəʊtə/ *n* **1** a stiff hat made of STRAW. Boaters are often thought of in connection with rich young men at university in Britain in the early part of the 20th century. **2** a person in a boat, esp. a boat used for pleasure: *boaters enjoying the lake on a Sunday afternoon*

boat hook /'··/ *n* a long pole with an iron hook on the end, used to pull or push a small boat

boat-house /'bəʊthaus/ *n* -houses /,haʊzɪz/ a small building by the water in which boats are kept

boat-man /'bəʊtmən/ *n* -men /mən/ a man who has small boats for hire, or who rows or sails small boats for pay

boat people /'··/ *n* [P] people who escape from bad conditions in their country in small boats, hoping to find safety in other countries. Since the late 1970s, many boat people have left Vietnam in this way.

Boat Race /'··/ [the] (in Britain) a rowing race on the River Thames, held every year between teams from Oxford University and Cambridge University. The Boat Race is a popular national event and is shown on television.

Boat Show /'··/ [the] an EXHIBITION of boats which takes place every year at Earls Court in London

boat-swain, **bosun** /'bəʊsən/ *n* a chief seaman on a ship, who calls the men to work and looks after the boats, ropes, and other equipment: *Are we ready to sail, boatswain?*

boat train /'··/ *n* a train that takes people to or from ships in port

bob¹ /bɒb||bɑ:b/ *v* -bb- **1** [I+adv/prep; T+obj+adv/prep] to (cause to) move up or down quickly or repeatedly: *The small boat was bobbing on the rough water of the lake.* | *a little bird bobbing its head up and down* **2** [T] (of a woman, esp. in former times) to make a CURTSY quickly **3** **bob for apples** to try to pick up apples floating in water using only one's mouth and not one's hands. It is done esp. at Hallowe'en parties for children. — **bob n**

bob up *phr v* [I] to appear or reappear quickly or

suddenly: *If you try to sink an apple in water it keeps bobbing up to the surface.* | *I haven't seen him around for a while, but I'm sure he'll bob up again soon.*

bob² *n* **bob** *infml* old-fash a former British coin, the SHILLING (=5p): *It'll cost you ten bob.*

bob³ *v* -bb- [T] to cut (a woman's hair) so as to be hanging loosely to shoulder-length or shorter: *to have one's hair bobbed* — **bob n**: *to wear one's hair in a bob*

Bob n Bob's your uncle! /,···'··/ *BrE* (used for showing satisfaction that a way of doing something has been found): *If the picture goes, just bang the television a few times, and Bob's your uncle!* (=the picture will come back)

Bob-a-Job Week /,···'··/ the week of the year during which members of the Scout movement in Britain raise money by doing work for anyone who requests their help, originally at one SHILLING (1) or BOB² (five new pence) per job

bob-bin /'bɒbɪn||'bɑ:-/ *n* a small round stick or tube on which thread is wound, as in a sewing machine — compare REEL

bob-ble¹ /'bɒbəl||'bɑ:-/ *n* *BrE* a small, often FLUFFY, ball (of wool, etc.) used for decoration: *cushions with bobbles on them* | *a bobble hat* (=with a bobble on its top)

bobble² *v* [T] *AmE* to drop or handle something awkwardly, esp. a ball; FUMBLE(2): *The shortstop bobbled the ball and the runner ran home.*

bob-by /'bɒbi||'bɑ:bi/ *n* *BrE infml*, becoming rare a policeman: *The Council wants more bobbies on the beat.* — see picture at POLICEMAN

bobby pin /'···/ *n* *AmE* for HAIRGRIP — see picture at PIN

bobby socks, **bobby sox** /'···/ *n* [P] *AmE* girls' socks reaching above the ankle and with the tops turned over. They were fashionable in the 1950s, esp. worn with SADDLE SHOES and wide, full skirts.

bobby sox-er /'bɒbi ,sɒksə/ || 'bɑ:bi ,sɑ:-/ *n* *AmE* old-fash a young girl between the ages of about 13 and 18, esp. during the 1950s

bob-cat /'bɒbkæt||'bɑ:b-/ *n* a wild cat of N America

bobs /bɒbz||bɑ:bz/ *n* see **bits and bobs** (BIT¹)

bob-sleigh /'bɒbsleɪ||'bɑ:b-/ also **bob-sled** /-sled/ — *n* a small vehicle that runs over snow on metal blades, built for racing down an ice-covered track and having a movable front part to control direction — **bobsleigh v** [I]

bob-tail /'bɒbteɪl||'bɑ:b-/ *n* (a horse or dog with) a tail cut short — *~ed adj*

Boc-cac-ci-o /bɒ'kɑ:tʃiəʊ||bəʊ-/ , **Gio-van-ni** /dʒəʊ'vɑ:ni/ (1313–75) an Italian writer best known for a collection of stories called *The Decameron*

Boche /bɒʃ||bɑ:f/ *n* [the + P] *derog sl* a word used in Britain for the Germans, esp. German soldiers, during the First and Second World Wars

bod /bɒd||bɑ:d/ *n* *infml* **1** *BrE* a person: *He's a bit of an odd bod.* **2** a person's body: *He has a great bod!*

bode¹ /bəʊd/ *v* **bode well/ill (for)** *esp. lit* to be a good/bad sign for the future (for): *These early sales figures bode well for the success of the book.*

bode² *past tense* of BIDE

bod-e-ga /bəʊdi:gə||-'deɪ-/ *n* *AmE* a small food store in a city neighbourhood, operated by Spanish-speaking people

bod-ice /'bɒdɪs||'bɑ:-/ *n* **1** the part of a woman's dress above the waist **2** *old use* a woman's undergarment; CORSET

bodice-rip-per /'···/ *n* *usu. derog* a book with a romantic story usu. set in the past, containing violent love scenes

bod-i-ly¹ /'bɒdɪli||'bɑ:-/ *adj* [A] of the human body; PHYSICAL: *bodily comforts* | *bodily functions* | *The police charged him with grievous bodily harm.*

bodily² *adv* taking hold of the whole body (or whole thing): *Her son wouldn't move, so she picked him up bodily and carried him to bed.*

bobby soxer



bod·kin /'bɒdkɪn/ *n* a long thick needle without a point

Bod·lei·an Li·bra·ry /,bɒdliən 'laɪbrəri/ *[the]* the university library of Oxford University, which holds many of the country's oldest and most famous books and papers

body /'bɒdi/ *n* **1** [C] **a** the whole physical structure of a person or animal as opposed to the mind or soul: *Her body was covered from head to toe in painful red spots.* | *The murderer buried the body of his victim.* **b** this without the head or limbs: *He had a wound on his leg and two more on his body.* **2** [*the (of)*] the main or largest part of something: *We sat in the body of the hall.* | *Should this information go in the main body of the text, or in the notes at the end?* **3** [C (*of*)] a large amount: *a body of information* | *The oceans are large bodies of water.* | *There is now a substantial body of opinion that opposes this law.* (=many people oppose it) **4** [C] (*sometimes cap.*) a number of people who do something together in a planned way: *The House of Representatives is an elected body/a legislative body.* | *the governing body of the college* | *a fine body of men* | *They marched in a body/in one body* (=all together) *to the headmaster's office.* **5** [C] *tech* an object; piece of matter: *the speed at which a falling body travels* | *The sun, moon, and stars are heavenly bodies.* | *a foreign body* (=something that should not be there) *in one's eye* **6** [C] the frame and outer covering of a car: *The factory produces car bodies, but does not make the engines.* **7** [U] a full strong quality: *I like a wine with plenty of body.* | *This conditioner will give your hair more body.* **8** [C] *old-fash infml* a person, usu. a woman: *Mrs Jones was a dear old body.* **9** **keep body and soul together** to have enough money, food, etc., to live on: *She hardly eats enough to keep body and soul together.* **10** **over my/his/her dead body** (used to show one's determination that something will not happen) not if I/he/she/etc. can prevent it: *You'll come into this house over my dead body.* **11** **-bodied** /bɒdɪd/ *baɪ-* having the stated kind of body: *big-bodied* | *a wide-bodied jet* —see also ABLE-BODIED, FULL-BODIED

▷ **USAGE** One's **figure** is the shape of one's **body**, considered with regard to whether the shape is pleasing or attractive, or whether it suits a particular style of clothes: *She has an excellent figure.* **Body** would formerly have been considered impolite here, but is now becoming acceptable. **Figure** is usu. used of women. For both men and women we can use **build**: *a man/woman of small/heavy build.* ◀

body bag /'bɒdi bæg/ *n* *AmE* a large bag in which the dead body of a soldier is carried away from the scene of a crime, an accident or a battle: *Large numbers of body bags coming back from the war would lower support for US action.*

body blow /'bɒdi blɔʊ/ *n* **1** (in **BOXING**) a usu. heavy blow that strikes one's opponent between the neck and the waist **2** [(*to*)] a serious loss, disappointment, or defeat: *His injury was a body blow to our chances of winning the match.*

body·build·er /'bɒdɪbɪldə/ *n* a person, usu. a man, who does a lot of hard physical exercises, often using heavy weights, in order to develop big muscles. Bodybuilding has become a very popular sport. **bodybuilding** *n* [U]

body clock /'bɒdi klɒk/ *n* see **BIOLOGICAL CLOCK**

body·guard /'bɒdɪgɑːd/ *n* **1** a man whose job is to guard an important person: *The Queen's bodyguards stopped a man who was carrying a gun.* **2** [+*sing./pl. v*] a group of men with this job: *The President's bodyguard is/are waiting in the hall.*

body lan·guage /'bɒdi ˌlæŋɡwɪʒ/ *n* [U] the use of bodily movements and signs as a way of expressing one's feelings or intentions without using words

body pol·i·tic /'bɒdi ˌpɒlɪtɪk/ *n* [*the*] *fml* the people of a nation forming a state under the control of a single government

body pop·ping /'bɒdi ˌpɒpɪŋ/ *n* [U] a young people's type of dancing popular from the 1980s, with movements intended to make the dancer appear to move like a **ROBOT**

body search /'bɒdi ˌsɜːtʃ/ *n* a detailed examination of a person for hidden items (e.g. drugs or weapons) **body-search** *v* [T]: *She was body-searched at the airport.*

Body Shop /'bɒdi ʃɒp/ one of a group of shops started in Britain and selling a wide range of women's and men's **TOILET-RIES** and **COSMETICS** at low prices. The Body Shop is

known for only selling products which have not been tested on animals and for working to save the environment.

body snatch·er /'bɒdi ˌsnætʃə/ *n* (in former times) a person who dug up dead bodies and sold them to doctors for scientific study

body stock·ing /'bɒdi ˌstɒkɪŋ/ *n* a closely-fitting garment in one piece that covers the body and often the arms and legs

body·work /'bɒdi wɜːk/ *n* [U] the main outside structure of a motor vehicle, as opposed to the engine, wheels, etc.: *The engine works well, but there is a lot of rust in the bodywork.*

Boe·ing /'bəʊɪŋ/ an American company which makes aircraft

Boer /bɔːr, buə/ *n, adj* (a member) of the white people of South Africa who came there from Holland —see also **AFRIKAANS**

Boer War /,bɔːr ˌwɔː/ also **South African War** [*the*] (1899–1902) a war in South Africa in which the British army successfully fought against the Boer **REPUBLICS** of the Transvaal and the Orange Free State to gain political rights there

bof·fin /'bɒfɪn/ *n* **1** *BrE old-fash infml* a scientist **2** *BrE infml* a clever person

Bo·fors gun /'bəʊfɜːz ɡʌn/ *n* a gun with two **BARRELS** (3), used against aircraft, named after **Bofors** in Sweden where it was first made

bog¹ /bɒɡ/ *n* **1** [C;U] (an area of) soft wet ground, consisting of decaying vegetable matter, into which the feet sink **2** [C] *BrE sl* a **TOILET** — ~ **gy adj**: *boggy ground*

bog² *v -gg-*

bog down *phr v* [I;T(=bog sthg./sbdy. ↔ down)] *usu. pass.* to (cause to) sink and become stuck (as if) in a bog: *The car got bogged down in the mud.* | (fig.) *The talks with the staff bogged down on the question of working hours.* | (fig.) *Let's try not to get too bogged down in these detailed points.*

Bo·garde /'bəʊɡɑːd/ *n* **Sir Dirk** (1920–) an English actor who has appeared in many films including *The Damned* and *Death in Venice*

Bo·gart /'bəʊɡɑːt/ *n* **Hum·phrey** /'hʌmfri/ (1899–1957) an American film actor whose films include *The Maltese Falcon*, *Casablanca*, and *The African Queen* —see colour pictures on pages 228 and 685

bo·gey /'bəʊgi/ *n* **1** also **bogey man** /'bɒgi ˌmæn/ *n* (used by children or to threaten them) an imaginary evil spirit: *The bogey man's coming to get you!* **2** a cause of fear, esp. an imaginary one **3** (in **GOLF**) a number of hits of the ball which is one more than **PAR** (the number of hits usu. taken)

bog·gle /'bɒɡəl/ *v* [I(at)] **1** to pause before taking any action, esp. owing to fear or surprise; **HESITATE**: *I rather boggled at having to pay £30 for the tickets.* **2** to be very surprised, shocked, or overwhelmed (**OVERWHELM**): *The mind boggles at the amount of research yet to be done.* —see also **MIND-BOGGLING**

bogie¹, **bogey**, **bogy** /'bəʊgi/ *n* **1** *BrE* a set of four or six wheels set in a frame under a railway engine or carriage, that make it able to go round curves **2** a small light cart (**TROLLEY**) **3** (in **GOLF**) a **SCORE** of one stroke over **PAR** on a hole

bogie² *v* [T] (in **GOLF**) to play (a hole) in one stroke over **PAR**

Bog·nor Re·gis /,bɒɡnə ˌrɪdʒɪs/ *n* also **Bognor** a town on the S coast of England, popular with tourists, esp. older British people

Bog·o·tá /,bɒɡə ˌtɑː/ *n* the capital city of Colombia, built on a high **PLATEAU** in the Andes

bog roll /'bɒɡ rɒl/ *n* [C;U] *BrE sl* (a roll of) **TOILET PAPER**

bo·gus /'bəʊɡəs/ *adj derog* pretended; intentionally false: *The reporter could not get to see the minister, so she made up a completely bogus interview with him.*

bo·he·mi·an /bəʊ ˌhiːmiən, bə-/ *n, adj* becoming rare (a person) that does not follow the accepted practices, customs, and standards of social behaviour: *Many writers, artists, and musicians are thought to be bohemians/to lead bohemian lives.*

boil¹ /bɔɪl/ *v* [I;T] **1** **a** to cause (a liquid or its container) to reach the temperature at which liquid changes into a gas: *Peter boiled the kettle.* | *I'm boiling the soup.* **b** (of

a liquid or its container) to reach this temperature: *Is the milk/the kettle boiling yet?* | (fig.) *boiling with rage* | *The way these newspapers print such blatant lies makes my blood boil.* (=makes me extremely angry) **2** to cook in water at 100°C: *Boil the potatoes for 20 minutes.* | *The potatoes have been boiling (away) for 20 minutes.* | *Shall I boil you an egg?* | *boiled eggs* | (fig.) **a boiling hot** (=extremely hot) **day** **3** **boil dry** to (cause to) become dry because the liquid has changed into gas by boiling: *Don't let the pan/the vegetables boil dry.* —see COOK (USAGE); see also HARD-BOILED, SOFT-BOILED

boil away *phr v* [I] to be reduced to nothing (as if) by boiling: *The water had all boiled away and the pan was burned.*

boil down *phr v* [I;T] (=boil sthg. ↔ down) to reduce in quantity by boiling: *Put plenty of spinach in the pan because it boils down (to almost nothing).* | (fig.) *Try to boil the report down (to the main points).*

boil down to sthg. *phr v* [T] *infml* (of a statement, situation, argument, etc.) to be or mean, leaving out the unnecessary parts: *It's a long report, but it really boils down to a demand for higher safety standards.*

boil over *phr v* [I] (of a liquid) to swell as it boils, and flow over the sides of a container: *Turn off the gas; the milk is boiling over.* | (fig.) *The argument boiled over into open war.*

boil up *phr v* [I] (of troubles) to develop and reach a dangerous level: *Trouble was boiling up in the Middle East.*

boil² *n* [S] an act or state of boiling: *Give the sheets a good boil to get them white.* | *The milk has nearly come to the boil.* | **Bring it to the boil**, then turn down the heat. | *to go/take off the boil* | (fig.) *Try to keep them interested in the deal — we don't want them to go off the boil.* (=lose interest)

boil³ *n* a painful infected swelling under the skin

boiled sweet /'bɔɪld swi:t/ *n* BrE a hard, small sweet which often tastes of fruit

boiler /'bɔɪlə/ *n* a container for boiling water, e.g. in a steam engine, or to provide heating in a house —see also DOUBLE BOILER, POTBOILER

boiler suit /'bɔɪlə su:t/ also **coveralls** AmE— *n* [C;U] a garment made in one piece, worn for dirty work; OVERALLS —see picture at OVERALL, and compare DUNGAREES

boiling point /'bɔɪlɪŋ pɔɪnt/ *n* **1** the temperature at which a liquid boils: *Oil has a low boiling point.* —compare FREEZING POINT **2** the point at which high excitement, anger, etc., develops into action: *Relations between the two countries have almost reached boiling point.*

bois-ter-ous /'bɔɪstərəs/ *adj* **1** (of a person or behaviour) noisily cheerful and rough: *Her sons are nice boys, but rather boisterous.* **2** (of weather) wild and rough — *~ly adv* — *~ness n* [U]

Bo-lan /'bɔʊlən/, **Marc** /mɑ:k||mɑ:rk/ (1947–77) a British singer and song writer, known esp. as the main singer of the band Tyrannosaurus Rex (T. Rex), who died young in a London car crash

bold /bɔʊld/ *adj* **1** (of a person or behaviour) brave, confident, and adventurous; not afraid to take risks: *The council today announced its bold new plans for the city centre.* | *He's a bold thinker, with lots of original ideas.* **2** *derog* (of a person or behaviour) without respect or shame; *INSOLENT*: *She's a bold child.* | *He sat there (as) bold as brass* (=extremely boldly) and refused to leave. **3** (of the appearance of something) strongly marked; clearly formed: *the bold shape of the cliffs* | *a drawing done in a few bold lines* **4** [no comp.] (of print) in bold-face: *The headwords in this dictionary are printed in bold type.* **5** *be/make (so) bold (as) to fml or humor* (esp. in social matters) to dare to: *That's a very unusual dress you're wearing, if I might make so bold (as to say so).* — *~ly adv* — *~ness n* [U]

bold-face /'bɔʊldfeɪs/ *n* [U] (in printing) thick black letters

bold-faced /'bɔʊld'feɪst-/ *adj* **1** without respect or shame; BOLD (2) **2** [no comp.] (of print) in boldface

bold-ly /'bɔʊldli/ *to boldly go where no man has gone before* a phrase from the television SERIES *Star Trek*, describing the idea of discovering new and exciting places. The phrase is also one of the most famous examples of a SPLIT INFINITIVE, which is considered by some people to be bad English. —see also STAR TREK

bole /bəʊl/ *n* the TRUNK (=the main stem) of a tree

bo-le-ro¹ /bə'leərəʊ/ *n* -ros (a piece of music written for) a Spanish dance

bol-e-ro² /'bɒləərəʊ||bə'leərəʊ/ *n* -ros a (woman's) short JACKET, open at the front and usu. not reaching the waist

Bo-leyn /bə'li:n/, **Anne** (1507–36) an English queen, the second wife of King Henry VIII, who had her head cut off for supposedly having affairs with her brother and others

Bo-liv-i-a /bə'li:vɪə/ a country in W South America, one of its only two countries having no coast; capital La Paz; population 7,193,000 (1989) —**Bolivian** *n, adj*

boll /bəʊl/ *n* the seed case of the cotton plant

bol-lard /'bɒləd, -lərd||'bɔ:lərd/ *n* a short thick post **a** BrE at the end of streets closed to cars so that they may not enter **b** BrE in the middle of a street, where walkers wait **c** on a ship or beside the water, for tying ships' ropes to

bol-locks¹ /'bɒləks||'bɔ:l-/ *n, interj* BrE *taboo sl* **1** [P] TESTICLES **2** [U] *derog* complete nonsense

bollocks² *v*

bollocks sthg. ↔ **up** BrE || **bol-lix** sthg. ↔ **up** AmE /'bɒləks||'bɔ:l-/ *phr v* [T] *taboo sl* to spoil; BUNGLE — **bollocks-up** /'...-/ *n*

boll wee-vil /'...-/ *n* an insect that attacks the cotton plant

bo-lo-gna /bə'ləʊni/ *n* [U] AmE a popular SAUSAGE meat made of BEEF, VEAL, and PORK, commonly served in sandwiches (SANDWICH). Children often take bologna sandwiches to school.

Bo-lo-gna /bə'ləʊnjə/ the capital city of Emilia-Romagna in N central Italy at the foot of the Apennines

Bol-o-gnese /'bɒlə'neɪz||'bɔ:lə'njeɪz/ *adj* **1** of or from Bologna in Italy **2** cooked in the Bolognese way esp. in a sauce with MINCE (=very small pieces of meat): *spaghetti bolognese* | *a bolognese sauce*

bo-lo-ney, **baloney** /bə'ləʊni/ *n* [U] *sl* foolish talk; nonsense: *That's a lot of boloney.*

bo-lo tie /'bɒləʊ taɪ/ also **string tie** *n* AmE a string worn around the neck with ends hanging down the front of a shirt, held together by a decorative object and worn usu. by men in the western US

Bol-she-vik /'bɒlʃɪvɪk||'bɔ:l-/ *n, adj* **1** (a supporter) of the system of government introduced in the USSR in 1917 **2** *derog* (a) COMMUNIST —**vism** *n* [U]

Bol-shoi Bal-let /'bɒlʃɔɪ 'bæleɪ||'bɔ:lʃɔɪ bæ'leɪ/ [the] the most famous school and theatre of BALLET in the former USSR, based in Moscow

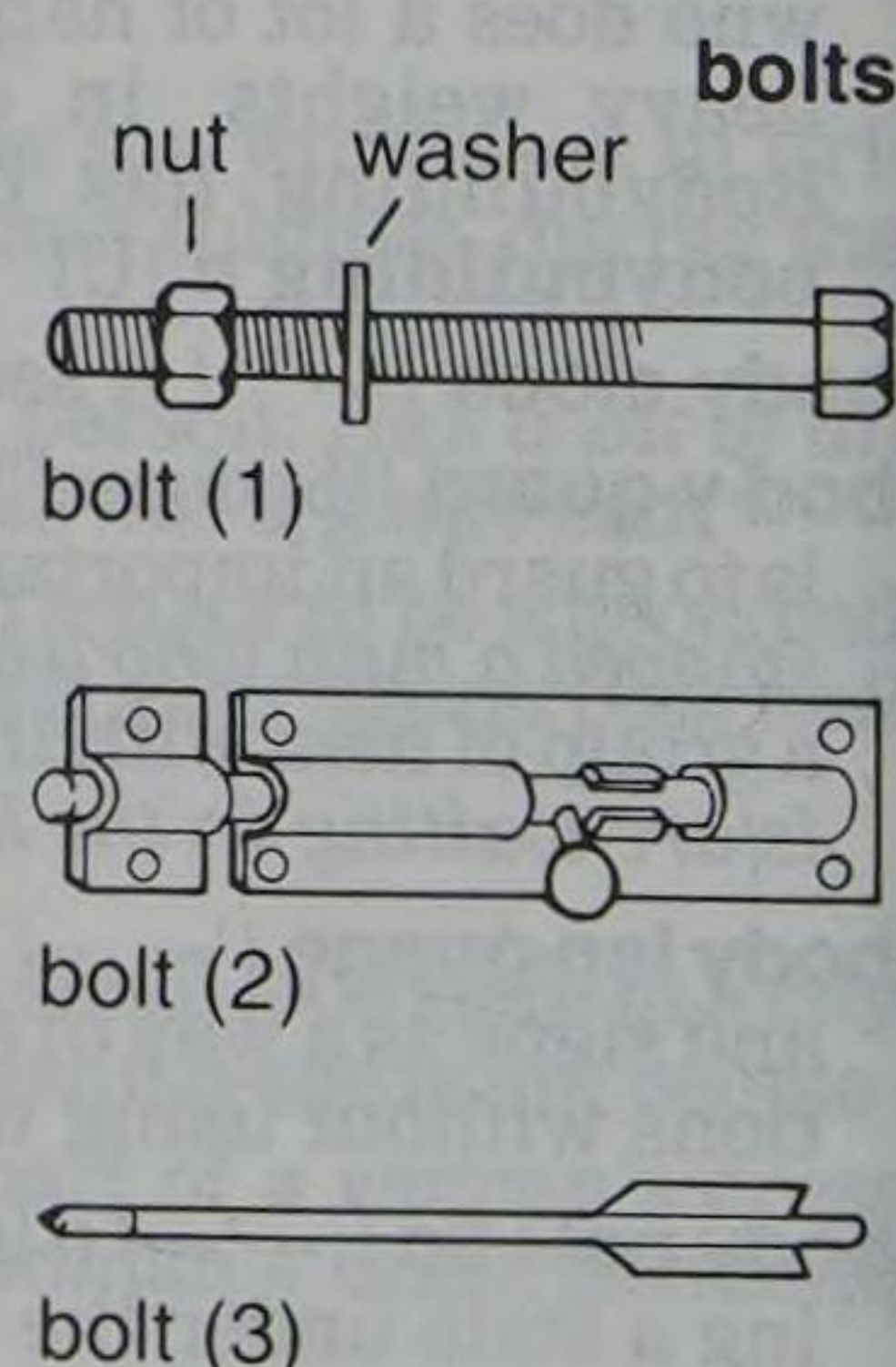
bol-shy, **bolshie** /'bɒlʃi||'bɔ:lʃi/ *adj* BrE *infml derog* unhelpful or unwilling and tending to argue: *I asked her to do some typing but she's being a bit bolshy about it.*

bol-ster¹ /'bɒlstə/ *n* a large long PILLOW that goes across the head of a bed under the other pillows

bolster² *v* [T (UP)] to support, strengthen, or increase: *These price cuts are sure to bolster demand for their products.* | *to bolster up someone's pride*

bolt¹ /bɔʊlt/ *n* **1** a screw with no point, which fastens through a piece of metal (NUT (2)) to hold things together **2** a metal bar that slides across to fasten a door or window **3** a short heavy ARROW to be fired from a CROSSBOW **4** a flash of lightning; THUNDERBOLT **5** a large quantity of rolled cloth **6** **bolt from the blue** something unexpected and unpleasant: *His sudden death came as a bolt from the blue.* —see also NUTS AND BOLTS, **have shot one's bolt** (SHOOT¹)

bolt² *v* **1** [I] to move fast or run away suddenly: *My horse bolted and threw me in the mud.* | *The thief bolted when he saw the policeman.* **2** [T (DOWN)] to eat very quickly: *She bolted (down) her breakfast.* **3** [I;T] to (cause to) fasten with a bolt: *She bolted the door.* | *This door bolts on the inside.* | *These two metal parts bolt together; this one bolts onto that one.* | *Let me out! I'm bolted in.* **4** [T] AmE, becoming rare to break



away from (a political party): *He bolted the Republicans.*

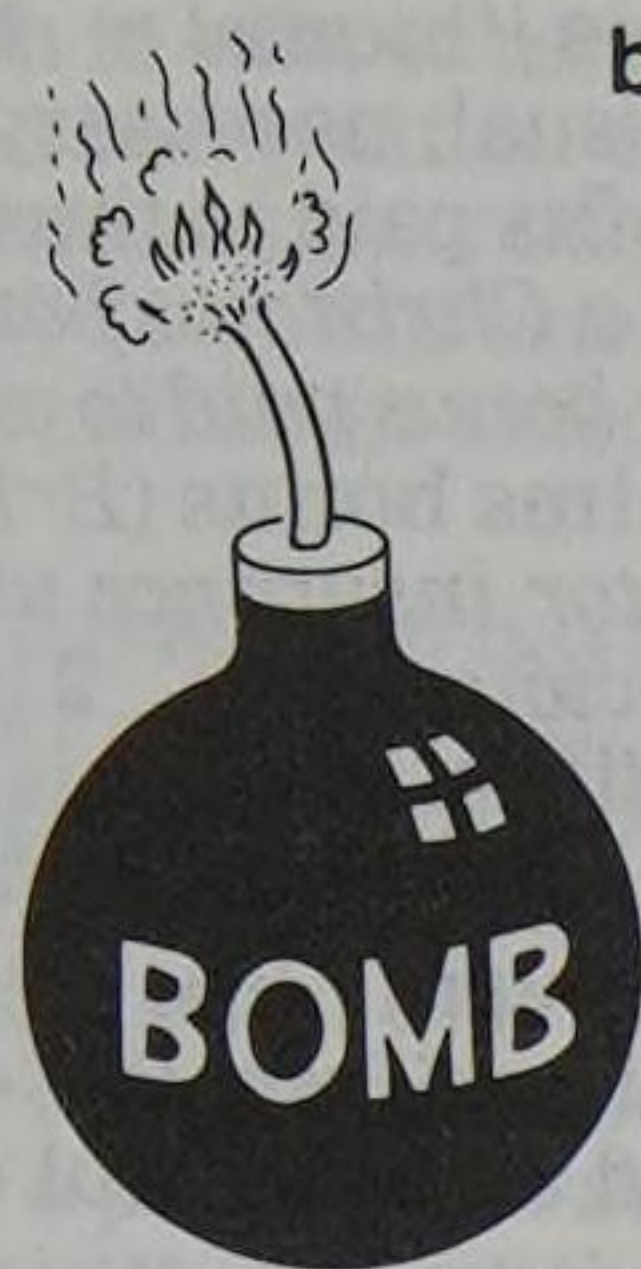
bolt³ *n* [S] an act of suddenly running away: *The prisoner made a bolt for (=towards) the door.*

bolt⁴ *adv* **bolt upright** straight and stiffly: *He made the children sit bolt upright.*

bolt-hole /'bəʊlthəʊl/ *BrE n* a place to which one can escape

Bol-ton /'bəʊltən/ a town in Greater Manchester, NW England, known for its wool and cotton industries and aircraft engineering

bomb¹ /bɒm||bɑ:m/ *n* **1** [C] a hollow metal container filled with explosive, or with other chemicals of a stated type or effect: *They planted a bomb in the post office.* | *Enemy aircraft dropped bombs on the city.* | *A time bomb explodes some time after it is placed in position.* | *The crowd threw petrol bombs at the police.* — see also **LETTER BOMB** **2** [the] the NUCLEAR bomb, or nuclear weapons in general, considered from a political point of view. The phrase “ban the bomb” was used by people opposing the use of nuclear weapons, esp. in the 1960s: *At that stage, China did not yet have the bomb.* **3** (go) like a bomb *BrE infml* (to go) very well: *My new car goes like a bomb.* **4** spend/cost a bomb *BrE infml* to spend/cost a lot of money



bomb

bomb² *v* **1** [I;T] to attack with bombs, esp. by dropping them from aircraft **2** [I+adv/prep] *infml* to move quickly: *He came bombing along the road towards them.* **3** [I (OUT)] *AmE infml* to fail: “How did he do on the last test?” “He bombed.”

bom-bard /bɒm'ba:d||bɑ:m'ba:rd/ *v* [T (with)] **1** to keep attacking heavily (as if) with gunfire: *The warships bombarded the port.* | *The speaker was bombarded with questions.* **2** *tech* to direct a stream of fast-moving PARTICLES at (an atom)

bom-bar-dier /,bɒmbə'diə||,bɑ:mbər-/ *n* **1** the person on a military aircraft who drops the bombs **2** a soldier with a low rank in the Royal Artillery (=part of the British army)

bom-bard-ment /bɒm'ba:dmənt||bɑ:m'ba:rd-/ *n* [C *usu. sing.*;U] (an) attack with big guns: *aerial bombardment*

bom-bast /'bɒmbæst||'bɑ:m-/ *n* [U] *derog* important-sounding insincere words with little meaning — ~ic /bɒm'bæstɪk||bɑ:m-/ *adj* : a bombastic person/speech — ~ically /kli/ *adv*

Bom-bay /,bɒm'beɪ||,bɑ:m-/ a city and former state in W central India, the city being the largest in the country and now the capital of Maharashtra state

Bom-bay duck /,.. ' / *n* [U] a food dish consisting of dried and salted fish, with a very strong taste

bomb dis-pos-al squad /,.. ' / *n* a team of people whose job it is to make safe bombs which have been discovered, and prevent them from exploding

bomb-er /'bɒmə||'bɑ:-/ *n* **1** an aircraft that carries and drops bombs —compare **FIGHTER** (2) **2** a person who throws or places bombs

bomber jack-et /'.. ' / *n* a warm leather JACKET worn by American and British PILOTS during the Second World War. Jackets like these are seen by some people as fashionable.

bombing cam-paign /'.. ' / *n* a number of bomb attacks by the same organization over a short period of time, often aimed at the general public rather than at anything particular and usu. done by **TERRORISTS**

bomb-proof /'bɒmpru:f||'bɑ:m-/ *adj* giving protection against bombs: *a bombproof shelter*

bomb scare /'.. ' / also **bomb threat** *AmE*— *n* a warning that a bomb has been planted in a certain place and is about to explode: *The station was closed because of a bomb scare.*

bomb-shell /'bɒmfel||'bɑ:m-/ *n* [*usu. sing.*] *infml* **1** a great and usu. unpleasant surprise: *The news of their divorce came as a bombshell to us.* **2** *old-fash* an extremely attractive woman: (esp. in the phrase **a blonde bombshell**)

bomb shel-ter /'.. ' / *n* a room or building, usu. underground, which is built to protect people from the effects of a bomb, esp. a NUCLEAR bomb. In the 1950s and 1960s, people in the US were encouraged to build bomb shelters for their families because people were afraid of war with the Soviet Union.

bomb-site /'bɒmsaɪt||'bɑ:m-/ *n* an open space in a town, where a bomb has destroyed all the buildings

bo-na fi-de /,bəʊnə 'faɪdi-||'bəʊnə faɪd/ *adj, adv* *real*(ly); *sincere*(ly): *The hotel car park is only for bona fide guests.* (=for people actually staying at the hotel)

bona fi-des /,bəʊnə 'faɪdiz/ *n* [P] *fml* or *law* sincerity; honest intentions

bo-nan-za /bə'nænzə, bæ-/ *n* *esp. AmE* something very profitable: *The film was a box-office bonanza.*

Bonanza a long-running US television programme which was set in the Wild West. Its main characters were three men who lived with their father on a RANCH (=large cattle farm).

bon-bon /'bɒnbɒn||'bɑ:nba:n/ *n* a sweet made of chocolate with a soft filling

bond¹ /bɒnd||bɑ:nd/ *n* **1** [C *often pl.*] something that unites two or more people or groups, such as a shared feeling or interest: *There's a close bond between them.* | *two countries that are linked by bonds of friendship* **2** [C] a written agreement or promise with the force of law: *to enter into a bond with someone* | (pomp) *His word is (as good as) his bond.* (=His spoken promise can be completely trusted.) **3** [C] an official paper promising to pay a sum of money to the person who holds it, esp. one by which a government or company borrows money from the public with the promise of paying it back with interest at a fixed time: *4½% National Savings bonds* —see also **BEARER BOND**, **ZERO COUPON BOND** **4** [S] a state of being stuck together: *This new glue makes a firmer bond.* **5** **in/out of bond** (of goods brought into a country) in/out of a bonded WAREHOUSE: *You can buy the whisky in bond or duty-paid* —see also **BONDS**

bond² *v* **1** [I;T (TOGETHER, to)] to (cause to) stick together, e.g. with glue: *bonded wood* **2** [I] *AmE* to develop strong and lasting feelings for someone, esp. between a mother and her new baby, or a father and his new baby: *Parents should have plenty of time with their new baby to allow bonding to occur* **3** [T] to put (goods) into a bonded WAREHOUSE

Bond, James a character in books by the English writer Ian Fleming. James Bond is a daring and attractive SECRET AGENT who works for the British Government and has the number 007. Many of the James Bond stories have been made into popular adventure films which are known for the exciting STUNTS and beautiful women.

bond-age /'bɒndɪdʒ||'bɑ:n-/ *n* **1** *esp. lit* the condition of being a slave, or any state which seems like this; **SERVITUDE**: *in bondage to a cruel master* **2** sex involving the physical RESTRAINT of a partner

bonded ware-house /,.. ' / *n* an official store for goods that are brought into a country and on which tax has not yet been paid

bond-hold-er /'bɒnd,həʊldə||'bɑ:nd-/ *n* someone who holds government or industrial bonds

Bon-di Beach /,bɒndaɪ 'bɪtʃ||,bɑ:n-/ a very popular BEACH in an area of Sydney, Australia, often thought of in connection with surfing (SURF²) and attractive young women

bonds /bɒndz||bɑ:nds/ *n* [P] *lit* chains, ropes, etc., used for tying up a prisoner: *to escape from one's bonds*

Bond Street /'.. ' / a street in London famous for its expensive shops

bone¹ /bəʊn/ *n* **1** [C] any of the various hard parts which make up the frame of a human or animal body, which protect the organs within, and round which are the flesh and skin: *He broke a bone in his leg and the doctor set it.* | *The dog was chewing/gnawing a bone.* | *a jawbone* | *She's very attractive; she's got good bone structure.* (=in her face) | *Put the fishbones on the side of the plate.* —see also **SKELETON**¹, and see picture at **TEETH** **2** [U] the hard substance from which these parts are formed: *The archaeologists found fragments of bone in the burial chamber.* | *a knife with a bone handle* **3** **bone of contention** something that causes argument: *The island has been a bone of contention between our two countries for years.* **4**

chilled/frozen to the bone *infml* feeling cold right through the body **5 close to/near the bone** slightly rude or improper; INDECENT or stating the truth in a cruel way: *Some of his jokes were rather close to the bone.* **6 cut something to the bone** to reduce (costs, services, etc.) as much as possible: *The bus service has been cut to the bone.* **7 have a 'bone to pick with** to have something to complain about to: *I've got a bone to pick with you. Why have you been spreading these rumours about me?* **8 make no bones about (doing) something** to feel no doubt or shame about (doing) something: *She makes no bones about her prejudice against them.* **9 not make old bones** *old-fash* not to live to be old **10 -boned** /bəʊnd/ having bones of the stated kind: *big-boned* — see also BARE BONES, FUNNY BONE, **feel in one's bones** (FEEL¹), **skin and bones** (SKIN¹) — *~ less adj*

bone² v [T] **1** to take the bones out of: *Will you bone the fish for me?* | *boned meat* **2** to stiffen (a garment) with pieces of bone

bone up *phr v* [I (for, on)] *infml* to study hard, esp. for a special purpose: *You'd better bone up on the traffic rules if you want to pass your driving test.*

bone chi-na /ˌˈbɒnˌtʃiːnə/ *n* [U] (cups, plates, etc., made of) fine white clay mixed with crushed animals' bones; a kind of PORCELAIN. Bone china is considered to be a high quality material and things made from it are generally quite expensive.

bone-dry /ˌˈbɒnˌdraɪ/ *adj infml* perfectly dry

bone-head /ˌˈbɒnˌhed/ *n sl* a stupid person — *~ed* /ˌˈbɒnˌhedɪd/ *adj*

bone-i-dle /ˌˈbɒnˌɪdəl/ also **bone-lazy** — *adj* extremely lazy

bone mar-row /ˌˈbɒnˌmarəʊ/ *n* MARROW (1)

bone meal /ˌˈbɒnˌmiːl/ *n* [U] crushed bones, used for improving the soil

bone-shak-er /ˌˈbɒnˌʃeɪkə/ *n infml*, often *humor* an uncomfortable shaky old vehicle, esp. a bicycle

bon-fire /ˌˈbɒnˌfaɪə/ *n* a large fire made in the open air, either for pleasure or to burn unwanted things: *to build a bonfire* — see colour picture on page 1211

Bonfire Night /ˌˈbɒnˌfaɪəˌnaɪt/ *BrE* GUY FAWKES NIGHT

bon-go /ˌˈbɒnˌɡəʊ/ also **bongo drum** /ˌˈbɒnˌɡɒ/ — *n -gos* or *-goes* either of a pair of small drums played with the hands

bon-ho-mie /ˌˈbɒnˌhəʊmi/ *n* [U] *Fr* cheerfulness; easy friendliness: *a spirit of bonhomie* | *his irritating bonhomie*

Bon-ing-ton /ˌˈbɒnˌɪŋtən/ *n* *Chris* /kris/ (1934–) an English MOUNTAINEER who was a member of the first British team to successfully climb the SW face of Mount Everest

bonk¹ /bɒŋk/ *v* **1** [T] *infml* to hit, usu. not very hard: *He bonked me on the head with the end of the ladder.* **2** [I(AWAY);T] *BrE sl* to have sex (with)

bonk² n **1** *infml* an act of hitting someone; hit **2** *BrE sl* *humor* an act of having sex

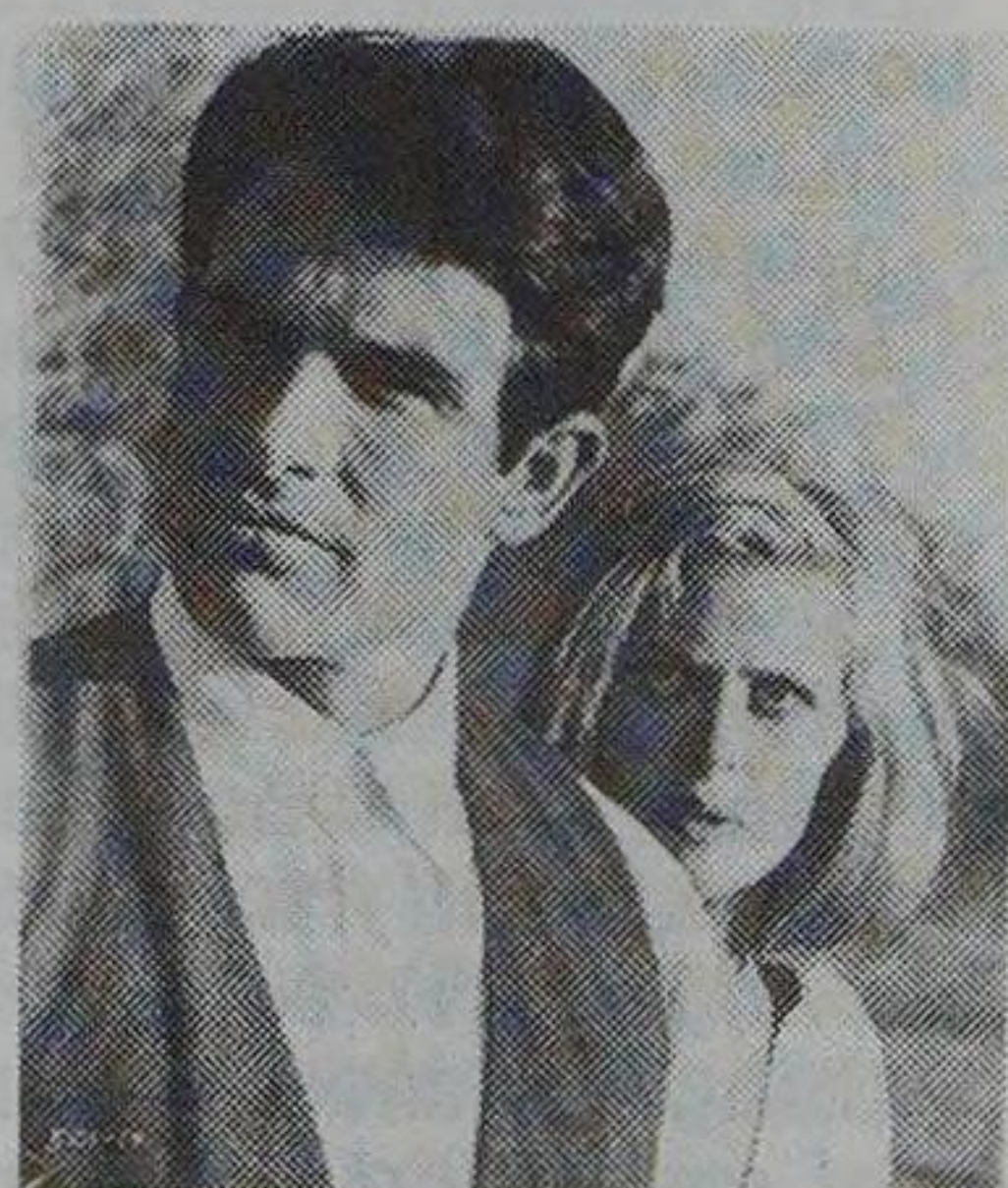
bon-kers /ˌˈbɒnˌkəz/ *adj* [F] *BrE sl* *humor* mad: *The noise is driving me bonkers!*

bon mot /ˌˈbɒnˌmɒ/ *n* **bons mots** /ˌˈbɒnˌmɒz/ *Fr* a clever saying or remark

Bonn /bɒn/ *n* the capital city of the Federal Republic of Germany from 1949 until 1990

bon-net /ˌˈbɒnˌnɛt/ *n* **1** a round head-covering tied under the chin, and often with a BRIM (=a piece in front) that shades the face, worn by **Warren Beatty and Faye** babies and, esp. in former times, by women **2** *BrE* || **hood** *AmE* — a metal lid over the front of a car: *to look under the bonnet* — see pictures at CAR and at ENGINE **3** a soft flat cap worn by men, esp. soldiers, in Scotland — see also **bee in one's bonnet** (BEE)

Bon-nie and Clyde /ˌˈbɒniː ænd ˌˈklaɪd/ *n* Clyde Barrow and Bonnie Parker, a team of two young ROBBERS in the US who stole money from banks and businesses in Texas,



Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Missouri in the 1930s and were the subject of a popular film made in 1967

Bon-nie Prince Char-lie /ˌˈbɒniː ˌˈprɪns ˌˈtʃɑːli/ see Charles STUART

bon-ny /ˌˈbɒni/ *adj* *apprec, esp. ScotE* **1** pretty and healthy: *a bonny baby* **2** [A] fine or skilful: *a bonny fighter* — *nily adv*

bon-sai /ˌˈbɒnsaɪ/ *n* **bonsai** [C;U] (the art of growing) a plant in a small pot that is prevented from reaching its natural size, esp. a tree

bo-nus /ˌˈbɒnəs/ *n* **1** an additional payment beyond what is usual, necessary, or expected, such as a share of the profits paid to those who work for a business: *The staff got a Christmas bonus/a productivity bonus* | *a cost of living bonus paid to workers because of rising prices* | *A no-claims bonus (BrE) is a reduction allowed in the cost of motor insurance when no claim has been made during previous years.* **2** [*usu. sing.*] *infml* anything pleasant in addition to what is expected: *We like our new house, and it's a real bonus that my mother lives so near.*

bon vi-vant /ˌˈbɒn viːˈvɒnt/ also **bon viv-eur** /ˌˈbɒn viːˈvɔːr/ *esp. BrE* — *n* a person who likes good wine and food and cheerful companions

bon-y /ˌˈbɒni/ *adj* **1** very thin so that the bones can be seen: *her bony hand* **2** (of food) full of bones: *bony fish*

bon-zer /ˌˈbɒnzə/ *adj* *AustrE* *old-fash sl* good; nice; fine: *a bonzer new car*

Bon-zo /ˌˈbɒnzəʊ/ *n* a name thought of as a typical name for a dog although very few dogs in fact have this name

boo¹ /buː/ *interj, n* **boos** **1** a shout of disapproval or strong disagreement: *A loud boo came from the back of the hall.* **2** (a word usu. shouted very suddenly at someone, often a child, to give them a sudden fright): *Boo! Scared you!* **3** *can't/couldn't say boo to a goose* *infml* to be easily frightened; lack courage

boo² v [I;T] to express disapproval (of) or strong disagreement (with), esp. by shouting "boo": *The crowd booed (the speaker).* | *They booed him off the stage.* | *The audience started booing and hissing when the actor forgot his lines.*

boob¹ /buːb/ *esp. BrE* || **boo-boo** /ˌˈbuːbuː/ *esp. AmE* — *n infml* a silly mistake

boob² v *infml, esp. BrE* [I] to make a silly mistake: *I've booped again.*

boobs /buːbz/ *n* [P] *infml* a woman's breasts

boob tube /ˌˈbuːbtuːb/ *n* **1** *infml* a woman's short garment for the upper body made of stretchy material **2** [*the*] *AmE* *humor infml* television

boo-by /ˌˈbuːbi/ also **boob** *AmE* — *n infml* a foolish person

booby hatch /ˌˈbuːbiːtʃ/ *n sl, esp. AmE* for MENTAL HOSPITAL

booby prize /ˌˈbuːbiːpraɪz/ *n* a prize given (often as a joke) for the worst performance in a competition

booby trap /ˌˈbuːbiːtræp/ *n* **1** a hidden bomb which explodes when a harmless-looking object is touched **2** any harmless trap used for surprising someone, esp. as a joke: *He put a bag of flour on top of the door as a booby trap.* — **booby-trap** *v* [T] -pp-

boo-gey-man /ˌˈbuːɡimæn/ *n -men* /men/ see BOGEY (1)

boo-gie /ˌˈbuːɡi/ *v esp. AmE* to dance to boogie-woogie music or to ROCK or similar music

boo-gie-woo-gie /ˌˈbuːɡi ˌˈwuːɡi/ *n* [U] a style of BLUES (1) piano playing, with the left hand continuously repeating the same phrase while the right hand provides the tune or MELODY (2)

boo-hoo /ˌˈbuː ˌˈhuː/ *interj* (a word meant to be like the sound of loud childish crying) — **boo-hoo** *v* [I]

book¹ /buk/ *n* **1** (a written work in the form of) a set of printed pages fastened together inside a cover, as a thing to be read: *She's writing a book on/about her travels in China.* | *They bought me a book for my birthday.* | *Have you read that book yet?* | *This book was first published in 1978.* | *a history book* | *a book of poems* | *Jane Austen's "Persuasion" is one of the set books for this year's English exam.* **2** a set of sheets of paper fastened together inside a cover, as a thing to be written in: *an exercise book* | *a rent book* (=in which a record of rent payments is kept) | *an autograph book* **3** any collection of things fastened together, esp. one with its own covers: *a book of stamps/tickets/matches* | *a cheque book* **4** one of the

main divisions of a larger written work, such as a long poem or the Bible **5** the words of a light musical play —compare LIBRETTO **6 according to/by the book** according to the established rules rather than using one's own ideas or methods: *It's safer to go by the book/to do everything strictly by the book.* **7 bring someone to book** to force someone to give an explanation, or to be punished: *He was finally brought to book for fiddling the accounts.* **8 in one's book** according to one's own opinion or way of doing things: *In my book this is not the way to handle it.* **9 make (a) book on** to offer to receive and pay out money on the results of a competition or a race —see also BOOKS, CLOSED BOOK, COFFEE-TABLE BOOK, GOOD BOOK, **throw the book at** (THROW¹ (24)) **10 one for the books** *AmE infml* an unusual event: *John's cleaned his room — that's one for the books!*

book² *v* **1** [I;T (UP)] to arrange in advance to have (something); RESERVE: *to book seats on a plane/a table in a restaurant* | *I'm afraid these seats are already booked.* | *You'll have to book (up) well in advance if you want to see that show.* | *She booked a band to play at the reception.* | *He was booked on the early flight (=had a seat booked on it) but had to go later because of a problem at the office.* **2** [T] *infml* to enter charges against, esp. in the police records: *She was booked on a charge of speeding.* **3** [T] to write the name of (a RUGBY or football player) in a book for breaking the rules: *The referee booked both players.*

book in *phr v* **1** [T (=book sbdy. in)] to book a room for (oneself or someone else) at a hotel: *I've booked you in at the Grand Hotel.* **2** [I] to report one's arrival at a hotel desk, an airport, etc.; CHECK in: *We booked in at 3 o'clock.*

book sthg. ↔ **up** *phr v* [T *usu. pass.*] to keep (all the seats, rooms in a hotel, service, etc.) for people who have made arrangements in advance: *I'm sorry, the hotel is (fully) booked up.* | *That singer is always booked up for a year ahead.*

book-a-ble /'bʊkəbəl/ *adj* that can be booked in advance: *All seats for the show are bookable.*

book-binding /'bʊk,baɪndɪŋ/ *n* [U] the art of fastening the pages of books together and enclosing them in covers —**er n**

book-case /'bʊk-keɪs/ *n* a piece of furniture containing shelves to hold books —see picture at LIVING ROOM

book club /'bʊk-klʌb/ *n* a club that offers books cheaply to its members

book-end /'bʊkɛnd/ *n* [*usu. pl.*] either of a pair of supports to hold up a row of books

Book-er Prize /'bʊkə,praɪz||-kər-/ *n* [*the*] an important prize for literature which is given every year for the best full-length NOVEL in English written by a citizen of Britain or the Commonwealth: *a Booker Prize-winning author*

book-ie /'bʊki/ *n infml* a BOOKMAKER

book-ing /'bʊkɪŋ/ *n* [C;U] **1** a case or the act of making a formal arrangement or promise to give a performance, provide a service, etc.: *She has bookings for several concerts.* **2** *esp. BrE* a case or the act of booking a seat, hotel room, etc.; RESERVATION: *All bookings must be made by post.* | *She bought a ticket at the booking office/from the booking clerk.* **3** a case or the act of booking (BOOK² (2)): *There were five bookings in the match.*

book-ish /'bʊkɪʃ/ *adj* often *derog* **1** fond of books and reading; STUDIOUS **2** showing more interest in ideas from books than in practical experience — **ness n** [U]

book-keep-ing /'bʊk,ki:pɪŋ/ *n* [U] the act or skill of keeping the accounts of a business company or other organization —**er n**

book-let /'bʊklɪt/ *n* a small book, usu. with a paper cover; PAMPHLET: *I picked up a free booklet on tooth care at the dentist's.*

book-mak-er /'bʊk,meɪkər/ *esp. BrE, also book-ie infml, turf accountant BrE fml* — *n* a person whose job is to take money (BETS) risked on the results of competitions, esp. horse races

book-mark /'bʊkmɑ:k||-mɑ:rk/ also **book-mark-er** /'bʊk-mɑ:kər||-mɑ:r-/ — *n* something, such as a piece of RIBBON or leather, put between the pages of a book to mark a place in it

book-mo-bile /'bʊkməbɪl/ *n AmE* for MOBILE LIBRARY

Book of Com-mon Prayer /'bʊk,ɒmən'praɪ/ [*the*] the book which is used by the minister and the CONGREGATION in services

in the Church of England and in the Episcopal church in the US. A modern Book of Common Prayer, called *The Alternative Service Book*, has been in use since 1980.

book-plate /'bʊkpleɪt/ *n* an often decorative piece of paper stuck in a book to show who owns it

books /bʊks/ *n* [P] **1** written records of business accounts, names, etc.: *Their books show a profit.* | *He was sacked for cooking the books.* (=stealing money by making changes in the accounts) **2 in someone's good/bad books** *infml* in favour/disfavour with someone

book-sell-er /'bʊk,sɛlə/ *n* a person who sells books to the public

book-shop /'bʊkʃɒp||-ʃɑ:p/ *esp. BrE* || **book-store** /-stɔ:ɹ/ *esp. AmE* — *n* a shop where books are sold —compare LIBRARY (1)

book-stall /'bʊkstɔ:l/ *n* a table or small shop open at the front, where books, magazines, etc., are shown for sale

book to-ken /'bʊk,təʊn/ *n BrE* a gift card for a certain value that can be exchanged for books at a bookshop: *a £5 book token*

book-worm /'bʊkwɜ:m||-wɜ:rm/ *n* a person who is very fond, perhaps too fond, of reading and study

boom¹ /bu:m/ *v* **1** [I;T (OUT)] to make (with) a deep hollow sound: *The guns boomed.* | *a loud booming voice* | *The foghorn boomed out its warning.* **2** [I] to grow rapidly in activity, value, or importance: *Business is booming.*

boom² *n* **1** a booming sound or cry: *The new aircraft creates a sonic boom.* **2** a (period of) rapid growth or increase: *There's been a boom in exports this year.* | *the post-war baby boom* | *The big tax cuts fuelled a consumer boom.* | *a boom town* (=where wealth and population are growing very fast)

boom³ *n* **1** a long pole **a** on a boat, to which a sail is fastened **b** used as part of an apparatus for loading and unloading **c** on the end of which a camera or MICROPHONE can be moved about —see picture at YACHT **2** a heavy chain fixed across a river to stop things (esp. logs) floating down or prevent ships sailing up

boom box /'bʊk-ɒks/ *n AmE infml* a GHETTO BLASTER

boo-mer-ang¹ /'bʊzmərəŋ/ *n* a curved stick which makes a circle and comes back when thrown, used by Australian ABORIGINES as a hunting weapon

boomerang² *v* [I (on)] (of a plan) to cause sudden unexpected harm to the person who made it; have the opposite result to what was intended; BACKFIRE: *His plan to reduce the number of workers boomeranged (on him), and he lost his own job.*

boon /bu:n/ *n* **1** [*usu. sing.*] *fml* something very helpful or useful: *The radio is a great boon to the blind.* **2** *old use* a favour: *to ask a boon of someone*

boon com-pan-ion /'bʊn,kəm'pænɪən/ *n* [*usu. pl.*] a good, close friend

boon-docks /'bʊndɒks||-dɔ:ks/ also **boo-nies** /'bʊ:nɪz/ *n* [*the+P*] *AmE infml* humor a rough country area far from any town, where few people live

Boone /bu:n/, **Daniel** (1734–1820) an American PIONEER who explored and settled Kentucky. He is usually pictured with a hat made of RACCOON skin and is a popular HERO.

boor /buə/ *n* a rude insensitive person, esp. a man — **ish** *adj* — **ishly** *adv* — **ishness** *n* [U]: *She was revolted by his utter boorishness.*

boost¹ /bu:st/ *v* [T] **1** [(UP)] to lift by pushing up from below: *If you boost me up, I can just reach the window.* **2** to increase; raise: *These changes will help to boost share prices/profits/demand.* | *plans to boost production by 30% next year* **3** to help to advance or improve; encourage: *We need a holiday to boost our spirits.* | *She's always trying to boost his ego by telling him how clever he is.* **4** *infml, esp. AmE* to help or favour the interests of, esp. by speech and writing; PLUG² (2): *a special promotion to boost their new product*

boost² *n* [*usu. sing.*] **1** a push upwards **2** an increase or improvement: *This has given share prices a big boost.* **3** an act that brings help or encouragement: *That holiday has given her spirits a boost.* | *an ego-boost*

boost-er /'bu:stər/ *n* **1** a person or machine that boosts: *When the boosters have helped to lift a space station into orbit, they separate from it and return to Earth.* **2** an additional amount of a drug, to strengthen the effect of some of the same drug that was given earlier: *This*

injection will protect you against the disease, but after six months you'll need a booster. **3** *infml, esp. AmE* a person who is very much in favour of something or someone

boot¹ /bu:t/ *n* **1** [C *usu. pl.*] a covering of leather or rubber for the foot and ankle, *usu.* heavier and thicker than a shoe: *He laced up his boots.* | *army boots* | *a pair of football boots* —see picture at SHOE, and see also WELLINGTON **2** [C] *BrE* || **trunk** *AmE*— an enclosed space at the back of a car for bags and boxes —see picture at CAR **3** [C *usu. sing.*] *infml* a kick with the foot **4** [*the*] *sl* the taking away of someone's job by an employer; DISMISSAL; SACK¹ (2): *They gave her the boot for continually being late.* | *She got the boot.* **5** **put the boot in** *sl, esp. BrE* to kick someone hard, *usu.* when they are already on the ground **6** **the boot is on the other foot** *infml* the situation has changed to the opposite of what it was before —see also BOOTS, **too big for one's boots** (BIG), **die with one's boots on** (DIE¹)

boot² *v* [T+*obj+adv/prep*] *infml* **1** to kick: *He booted the ball across the field.* **2** [T] *AmE* for CLAMP² (2): *Watch out! They're booting cars today.*

boot *sbdy.* ↔ **out** *phr v* [T] *infml* to send away rudely and sometimes with force, *esp.* from a job: *They booted him out for being drunk at work.*

boot³ *n tech* the action of loading an OPERATING SYSTEM for a computer from a DISK into the computer's memory — **boot** *v* [T (UP)]

boot⁴ *n* **to boot** *old use or humor* (often of something unpleasant) besides; in addition: *He is dishonest, and a coward to boot.*

boot-black /'bu:tblæk/ *n rare* a person who cleans and polishes shoes, *esp.* in the street for money

boot camp /'·-/ *n* a training camp for people who have just joined the US navy, army, or Marine Corps

boot-ed /'bu:tɪd/ *adj* having boots of a stated type: *black-booted soldiers*

boot-ee /'bu:tɪz, bu:'tɪz/ *n* [*usu. pl.*] a baby's woollen boot

booth /bu:ð||bu:θ/ *n* **1** (at a market or FAIR³) a tent or small building where goods are sold or games are played **2** a small enclosed place for one person: *a telephone booth* | *a voting booth* | *a listening booth in a record shop* **3** a partly enclosed place in a restaurant with a table between two long seats

Booth /bu:θ/, **John Wilkes** /dʒɒn wɪlks||dʒɑ:n-/ (1838–65) the man who shot and killed US President Abraham Lincoln

Booth /bu:ð/, **William** (1829–1912) a British religious leader who established the Salvation Army in 1878

Booth-royd /'bu:θrɔɪd/, **Bet-ty** /'beti/ (1929–) a British Labour politician who became Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons in 1987, and in 1992 was elected as the first woman Speaker of the House of Commons

boot-lace /'bu:tlæs/ *n* [*usu. pl.*] a LACE¹ (2) for boots

boot-leg /'bu:tlæg/ *v -gg-* [I;T] to make, carry, or sell (*esp.* alcoholic drink) illegally. In the US, bootlegging is often connected with the time of PROHIBITION (1920–33), when alcohol was forbidden except for medicinal or religious purposes. — **bootleg** *adj*: *bootleg records/whisky* — ~ **ger** *n*

boot-less /'bu:tləs/ *adj lit* bringing no advantage/useless: *bootless care*

boots /bu:ts/ *n boots* *BrE old use* a male hotel servant who cleans shoes and carries bags

Boots one of a group of CHEMIST's shops found in most towns in Britain, which also sells articles for babies, photographic supplies, and some food items

boot sale /'·-/ *BrE* also **boot fair**, **car boot sale** *BrE* || **garage sale** or **yard sale** *AmE* *n* a sale in a car park, school, or other open space, where a number of people sell things, *esp.* SECOND-HAND things, from the BOOTS of their cars. In the US, garage or yard sales are held in and around the garage or YARD (=garden) of the seller.

boot-straps /'bu:tstræps/ *n* **haul/pull oneself up by one's own bootstraps** *infml* improve oneself or one's situation by one's own efforts, without help from anyone else

boot-y /'bu:ti/ *n* [U] *esp. lit* goods stolen by thieves or taken by a victorious army: *to share out/divide up the booty*

booze¹ /bu:z/ *v* [I] *sl* to drink alcohol, *esp.* too much alcohol: *He's out boozing with his friends.*

booze² *n* [U] *sl* alcoholic drink

booz-er /'bu:zə/ *n sl* **1** a person who boozes often **2** *BrE* a PUB

booze-up /'·-/ *n BrE sl* an occasion, for example a party, when a lot of alcohol is drunk

booz-y /'bu:zi/ *adj* showing signs of heavy drinking of alcohol: *a boozy party/old man* — *ily adv* — *-iness n* [U]

bop¹ /bɒp||bɔ:p/ *v -pp-* [T] *infml* to hit with the hand or something held in the hand — **bop** *n*: *a bop on the head*

bop² *v -pp-* [I] *infml, esp BrE* to dance in an informal way, *esp.* to popular music in a DISCO: *bopping (around) to the latest hits* — **bop** *n*: *Shall we have a bop?*

bop³ also **bebop**— *n* [U] a type of JAZZ music developed in the 1940s, which typically has difficult instrumental parts and complicated RHYTHMS

Bo Peep /bəʊ 'pi:p/ also **Little Bo Peep**— a character from a children's NURSERY RHYME. Bo Peep is a young girl who looks after sheep, but in the nursery rhyme she has lost her sheep and cannot find them.

Bop-hù-that-swa-na /,bɒpu:tət'swa:nə||bəʊ-/ an area of South Africa which is a HOMELAND for the Bantu people

Bor-deaux /bɔ:'dɔʊ||bɔ:r-/ *n* **1** [U] white or red wine of the Bordeaux area of France **2** a port and city in the Bordeaux area of SW France

bor-del-lo /bɔ:'deləʊ||bɔ:r-/ *n -los esp. lit* a BROTHEL

border¹ /'bɔ:də/||'bɔ:r-/ *n* **1** an edge running around or along something, often having a decorative purpose: *a white handkerchief with a blue border* | *a border of flowers round the lawn* **2** [(between, with)] (land near) the dividing line between two countries: *soldiers guarding the border* | *to cross the border into Spain* | *within our borders* | *a town in eastern France, near the border with Germany* | *a border town/area/dispute* **3** **north of the border** *BrE* in Scotland: *Let's now look at the election campaign north of the border.*

border² *v* [T] **1** to form a border to: *fields bordered by woods* **2** to share a border with: *France borders Germany along parts of the Rhine.* **3** [(with)] to provide with a border, *esp.* for decoration: *to border a skirt with lace*

border on/upon *sthg. phr v* [T] to be very much like; VERGE **on**: *strange behaviour that borders on madness*

Border one of the British television companies controlled by the ITC, transmitting (TRANSMIT) programmes to Northern England and Scotland —see also BORDERS

bor-der-land /'bɔ:dələnd||'bɔ:rdər-/ *n* **1** [C] land at or near the border of two countries **2** [S] a condition between two other conditions and like each of them in certain ways: *the borderland between sleeping and waking*

bor-der-line /'bɔ:dələɪn||'bɔ:rdər-/ *n* (**between**) **1** [C *usu. sing.*] (a line marking) a border: *the borderline between France and Germany on the map* **2** [S] an uncertain dividing line between two (opposite) conditions: *the borderline between genius and madness/between passing and failing the exam* | *Ann will certainly pass the exam, but Susan is a borderline case.* (=may or may not pass)

Bor-ders /'bɔ:dəz||'bɔ:rdəz/ [*the+P*] a REGION in Scotland close to the border with England, known for its low, rolling hills

bore¹ /bɔ:ɪ/ *past tense* of BEAR²

bore² *n* **1** [C] *derog* a dull uninteresting person whom other people quickly become tired of, *esp.* one who talks continually or repeatedly in an uninteresting way: *She's become an awful bore since she got married to him.* | *Don't mention computers — he's a real bore on the subject.* | *a crashing bore* **2** [S] *infml, esp BrE* something which is rather unpleasant or annoying; NUISANCE: *It's a bore having to go out again on a cold night like this.*

bore³ *v* [T] to make (someone) tired or uninterested, *esp.* by continual dull talk: *He bored us all by talking for hours about his new car.* | (*sl*) *That guy really bores the pants off me.*

bore⁴ *v* [I+*adv/prep*; T] to make a round hole or passage (in something): *This machine can bore through solid rock.* | *Worms have bored into the wood.* | *to bore a hole/a well* | (*fig.*) *to bore one's way through a crowd of people*

bore⁵ *n* **1** (*often in comb.*) a measurement of the size of a hole, *esp.* of the width of the inside of a gun barrel or pipe: *a 12-bore shotgun* | *a small-bore rifle* **2** also **borehole**— a hole made by boring, *esp.* for oil, water, etc.

bore⁶ *n* a very large wave caused by a movement of the sea running up a narrow river: *a tidal bore*

bored /bəʊd||bəʊrd/ *adj* [(with)] tired and uninterested: *She's bored with her job.* | *a bored expression on her face* | *I was bored stiff/bored to death/bored to tears by their trivial conversation.*

bore-dom /'bɔːdəm||'bɔːr-/ *n* [U] the state of being bored: *She made no attempt to conceal her boredom.*

bore-hole /'bɔːhəʊl||'bɔːr-/ *n* a BORE⁵ (2)

bor-er /'bɔːrə/ *n* a person, tool, or insect that makes round holes

Borg /bɔːg||bɔːrg/, **Bjorn** /bjɔːn||bjɔːrn/ (1956–) a Swedish tennis player who won the men's SINGLES title at Wimbledon five times in a row between 1976 and 1980

Bor-ges /'bɔːhes||'bɔːr-/ , **Jor-ge Lu-is** /'hɔːheɪ lu'izs||'hɔːr-/ (1899–1986) an Argentinian poet and writer of short stories

bor-ing /'bɔːrɪŋ/ *adj* dull or uninteresting; TEDIOUS: *a boring job/film/person* | *The lecture was deadly boring.* (=extremely boring) – *~ly adv* : *boringly predictable*

Bor-mann /'bɔːmən||'bɔːr-/ , **Martin** (1900–?45) a German Nazi political leader, one of Hitler's closest advisers, whose SKELETON¹ (1) was discovered in 1972

born¹ /bɔːn||bɔːrn/ *past participle* of BEAR²

▷ USAGE This is one of the two past participles of **bear** when it means “to give birth to”. Compare *He was born in 1950* and *She has borne (fml) three children.* ◀

born² *adj* [no comp.] 1 [F] brought into existence by or as if by birth: *Shakespeare was born in 1564.* | *The baby was born at 8 o'clock.* | *Don't try and tell me any lies; I wasn't born yesterday, you know!* | *He's a countryman born and bred* (=was born and grew up in the country), *so he doesn't like big cities.* | *The people won their independence, and a new nation was born.* | *He spoke with a cynicism born of bitter experience.* 2 [F] from or by birth; originally: *He was born French, but applied for Canadian citizenship when he grew up.* 3 having a stated quality from or as if from birth: *a born leader/writer* | *He was born lucky.* [F+to-v] *She was born to succeed.* (=it was always clear that she would do so) 4 **born with a silver spoon in one's mouth** having money and social advantages from birth 5 **in all my born days** *infml* in all my life 6 **there's one born every minute** a phrase used when saying that someone has acted very foolishly 7 **-born** born in the stated way: *American-born* | *first-born* | *still-born* (=born dead) – see also UNBORN, **to the manner born** (MANNER)

born-a-gain /'bɔːn-ə-/ *adj* having accepted a particular religion, esp. EVANGELICAL Christianity, often through a deep spiritual experience: *a born-again Christian* | (fig.) *a born-again non-smoker/jogger*

► CULTURAL NOTE People who have had bad experiences often become born-again Christians and they believe their new faith in Christ helps them to start a new life. Born-again Christians are usu. open about their beliefs and like to talk about their faith. In the US they are known for being active in the MORAL MAJORITY, in FUNDAMENTALISM, and in EVANGELICAL churches. ◀

borne /bɔːn||bɔːrn/ 1 *past participle* of BEAR² – see BORN¹ (USAGE) 2 **borne in on/upon** brought firmly to the consciousness of: *Slowly it was borne in on the citizens that the enemy had surrounded them.* 3 **-borne** carried as stated: *waterborne diseases* | *Some plants have wind-borne seeds.*

Bor-ne-o /'bɔːniəʊ||'bɔːr-/ the largest island in the Malay Archipelago in SE Asia

Bor-o-din /'bɔːrədn||'bɔːrədn/, **Al-ex-an-der** /,æliɡ'zɑːn dər||-'zæn-/ (1833–87) a Russian COMPOSER whose most famous work is his OPERA *Prince Igor*

bo-rough /'bʌrə||-rəʊ/ *n* (sometimes *cap.*) a town, or a division of a large town, with some powers of local government: *the Borough of Brooklyn*

borough coun-cil /,bɔːrəʊ||-rəʊ/ *n* esp. BrE the organization responsible for local government in a borough

bor-row /'bɔːrəʊ||'bɔːr-/ *v* [I;T (from)] 1 to take or receive (something) from another person, usu. with that person's permission, and with the understanding that it will be returned after a certain time: *He borrowed a car from a friend for a few days.* | *Can I borrow your pen for a moment?* | *They borrowed heavily from the bank to start their new business.* | *She could not pay back all the money she had borrowed.* – compare LEND, LOAN² 2 to take or

copy (esp. ideas, words, etc.) and use them as one's own: *English has borrowed (words) from many languages.* – see also **live on borrowed time** (LIVE¹) 3 **borrow trouble** AmE *infml* to worry unnecessarily

bor-row-er /'bɔːrəʊə||'bɔːr-/ *n* 1 a person who borrows (something) 2 **neither a borrower nor a lender be** *quote* a phrase from the play *Hamlet* by Shakespeare

bor-row-ing /'bɔːrəʊɪŋ||'bɔːr-/ *n* a word or phrase which has been borrowed by one language from another: *English has many borrowings from French.* – see also LOANWORD

borrowing pow-ers /'... ,.../ *n* [P] the amount of money a company is allowed by its own regulations to borrow

borscht , **borshcht** /bɔːʃt||bɔːrʃt/ also **borsch** /bɔːʃ||bɔːrʃ/- *n* [U] a BEETROOT soup often served with sour cream

bor-stal /'bɔːstl||'bɔːr-/ *n* [C;U] BrE (often *cap.*) a prison school for young criminals between the ages of 16 and 21: *He was sent to borstal for stealing.*

bor-zoi /'bɔːzɔɪ||'bɔːrɜːɪ/ *n* a large long-haired hunting dog originally from Russia

Bosch /bɔːʃ||bɔːʃ/, **Hie-ron-y-mus** /haɪə'rɒnɪməs||-'rɑː-/ (?1450–1516) a Flemish painter known for his strange and GROTESQUE paintings, esp. *The Garden of Earthly Delights*

bosh /bɔːʃ||bɔːʃ/ *n*, *interj* [U] *infml*, esp. BrE foolish talk; nonsense

Bos-ni-a /'bɔːzniə||'bɔːz-/ an area of Yugoslavia, which together with Herzegovina formed the republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina until the country began to break up into independent units in the early 1990s

Bos-ni-a-Her-ze-go-vi-na /,bɔːzniə ,hɜːtsəgə'vɪznə||,bɔːzniə ,hearts-/ (since 1990) a country in SE Europe bordered by Croatia, Serbia, and Montenegro; capital Sarajevo; population 4,440,000 (1988)

bos-om /'bʊzəm/ *n* [usu. *sing.*] esp. *lit* 1 the front of the human chest, esp. the female breasts, or the part of a garment covering this: *She held the child to her bosom.* | *She carried the letter in the bosom of her dress.* 2 this part considered as the centre of feelings: *Her bosom was torn by sorrow.* | *a bosom friend/buddy* (=a very close friend) | *He spent his last years in the bosom of* (=living in a close relationship with) *his family.* – compare BREAST¹

bos-om-y /'bʊzəmi/ *adj infml* having large breasts: *a bosomy actress* – compare BUXOM

Bos-por-us /'bɔːspərəs||'bɔːs-/ also **Bos-pho-rus** /'bɔːspərəs, -fərəs||'bɔːs-/ [*the*] the stretch of sea which separates European and Asian Turkey, and connects the Black Sea with the Sea of Marmara

boss¹ /bɔːs||bɔːs/ *n infml* 1 a person who is in charge of workers; an employer or manager: *He asked the boss/his boss for more money.* | *Who's (the) boss here?* (=Who's in charge?) | (fig.) *You can't let the children just do what they like – you've got to show them who's boss!* – see FATHER¹ (USAGE) 2 esp. AmE, usu. *derog* a political party chief, esp. one who controls a local party organization

boss² *v* [T (ABOUT, AROUND)] *infml* to give orders (to), esp. in an unpleasant way: *Tom likes to boss younger children about.*

boss³ *adj* AmE, *sl* excellent or fashionable: *a boss suit* | *a boss car*

boss⁴ *n* a round decoration which stands out from the surface of something, e.g. on a shield or the inside of a church roof

boss⁵ **make a boss shot (at)** BrE *old-fash sl* to make a first, probably not very good, attempt (at)

BOSS /bɔːs||bɔːs/ Bureau for State Security; the South African organization responsible for collecting information about other countries and for the safety of the state

bos-sa no-va /,bɔːsə 'nəʊvə||,bɔːs-/ *n* [*the*] a dance which came from Brazil and is like the SAMBA

boss-eyed /'bɔːs-ɪ/ *adj* BrE *sl* for CROSS-EYED

boss-y /'bɔːsi||'bɔːsi/ *adj infml* too fond of giving orders: *a bossy person/manner* | *She's an old bossy-boots.* (=is very bossy) – **iness** *n* [U]

Bos-ton /'bɔːstən||'bɔːs-/ a city in Massachusetts, on the Atlantic coast of the US. Boston is historically important and usu. follows older, established ways of thinking and

behaving. The city has many colleges and universities.
– see colour map on pages 1374-5

Boston Globe /ˌbɒstən ˈɡləʊb/ [the] an important American newspaper sold esp. in New England – see also extra information on page 896

Boston Mas-sa-cre /ˌbɒstən ˈmæsəkreɪ/ [the] violence between American COLONISTS and the British army in 1770, that resulted when a crowd of angry Boston townspeople, who were against the presence of the British army, threatened a British soldier. Other soldiers fired into the crowd, killing five people. This was one of the events leading up to the AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY WAR.

Boston Pops /ˌbɒstən ˈpɒps/ [the] an ORCHESTRA (=group of musicians) from Boston, Massachusetts best known for its performances and recordings of popular CLASSICAL music, and connected with Arthur Fiedler, who led it for many years

Boston Tea Par-ty /ˌbɒstən ˈtiː pɑːti/ [the] a protest in Boston in 1773 against the British tax on tea, when tea was thrown from British ships into the water – see colour picture on page 1015

► **CULTURAL NOTE** The SLOGAN of the American colonists at the time was, “No taxation without representation!”, meaning that the colonies should either have fair representation in the British Parliament, or should be independent. Three years later, the DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE was signed. ◀

bo-sun /ˈbəʊsən/ *n* a BOATSWAIN

Bos-well /ˈbɒzweɪl/ ˈbaɪz-/ **James** (1740–95) a Scottish lawyer and writer, most famous for his BIOGRAPHY of Samuel Johnson

Bos-worth Field /ˌbɒzweɪθ ˈfi:ld/ ˈbaɪzweɪθ-/ the place where the final battle of the Wars of the Roses was fought in 1485, where Richard III was defeated by Henry Tudor – see also WARS OF THE ROSES

bo-tan-i-cal /bəˈtænɪkəl/ *adj* [A] of or related to plants or botany: *a beautiful botanical garden with plants from all over the world* | *botanical drugs* (=obtained from plants) – ~ *ly* /kli/ *adv*

bot-a-nize also **-nise** *BrE* /ˈbɒtənəɪz/ ˈbaɪz-/ *v* [I] to study plant life and collect examples of plants

bot-a-ny /ˈbɒtəni/ ˈbaɪz-/ *n* [U] the scientific study of plants – *-nist n*

Botany Bay /ˌbɒtəni ˈbeɪ/ 1 an INLET in SE Australia, visited by Captain James Cook in 1770 2 an area in New South Wales, Australia, where British prisoners were sent to live in the 19th century

botch /bɒtʃ/ ˈbɒtʃ/ *v* [T (UP)] *infml* to do (something) badly, esp. to repair (something) badly through carelessness or lack of skill: *I'm afraid I've rather botched (up) the dinner tonight.* | *a botched job* – **botch, botch-up** /ˈbɒtʃ ˈʌp/ *n*: *I've made a botch/botch-up of repairing the car.* – ~ *er n* – ~ *y adj*: *a botchy job*

both /bəʊθ/ *predeterminer, determiner, pron* 1 the two together; the one as well as the other: *Both her parents are doctors.* | *Both of them are doctors.* | *They are both doctors.* | *Both sides are keen to reach an agreement.* | *She and her husband both like dancing.* | *“I don't know which to buy.” “Why not buy both (of them)?” “I can afford one, but not both.”* | *They both started speaking together.* 2 **both ... and ...** not only ... but also ...: *We visited both New York and London.* | *He spoke with both kindness and understanding.* | *both in Holland and in Denmark* | *both then and now* | *She both speaks and writes Swahili.*

► **USAGE** 1 You can use **both** or **both of** before nouns with a determiner (such as *the, those, his*): *I like both (of) the paintings.* | *Both (of) their children are grown up.* 2 **Both** (but not **both of**) can be used before nouns without a determiner: *I like both paintings.* | *Both paintings are by the same artist.* 3 **Both of** is used before personal pronouns: *Both of them speak French.* | *I'd like both of you to come.* You can also put **both** after the pronoun with the same meaning: *They both speak French.* | *I'd like them both to come.* – see also EACH (USAGE) ◀

Bo-tha /ˈbəʊtə/, **P W** (1916–) the PRIME MINISTER of the Republic of South Africa from 1978 until 1984 and president from 1984 until 1989

Bo-tham /ˈbəʊθəm/, **I-an** /ˈiːən/ (1955–) a very successful English cricket player, who has ability in many crick-
eting skills

both-er 1 /ˈbɒðər/ ˈbaɪz-/ *v* 1 [T] to cause trouble, worry, or annoyance to (someone) esp. repeatedly or continually, in little ways: *I'm busy: don't bother me just now.* | *What bothers me most is the fact that he seems to take no interest in his work.* | *His old injury still bothers him* (=gives him pain) *a bit.* | *Will it bother you if I turn the radio on?* | (*po-lite*) *I'm sorry to bother you, but can you tell me the time?* | *Don't bother yourself/bother your head* (=worry) *about all these details.* | *You're looking rather hot and bothered – what's the matter?* | *I can't be bothered* (=am unwilling to take the trouble) *to look for it just now.* 2 [I (with, about)] to cause inconvenience to oneself; trouble oneself: *Don't bother with/about it.* [+to-*v*] *You needn't bother to lock the door.* | *I sent them an invitation, but they didn't even bother to reply.* [+*v-ing*] *Don't bother locking the door.* | *Goodbye – and don't bother coming back!* (=I don't want you to come back) 3 [I;T imperative] esp. *BrE* (used for adding force to expressions of displeasure): *Bother! I've missed my train!* | *Bother the lot of you! Go away!*

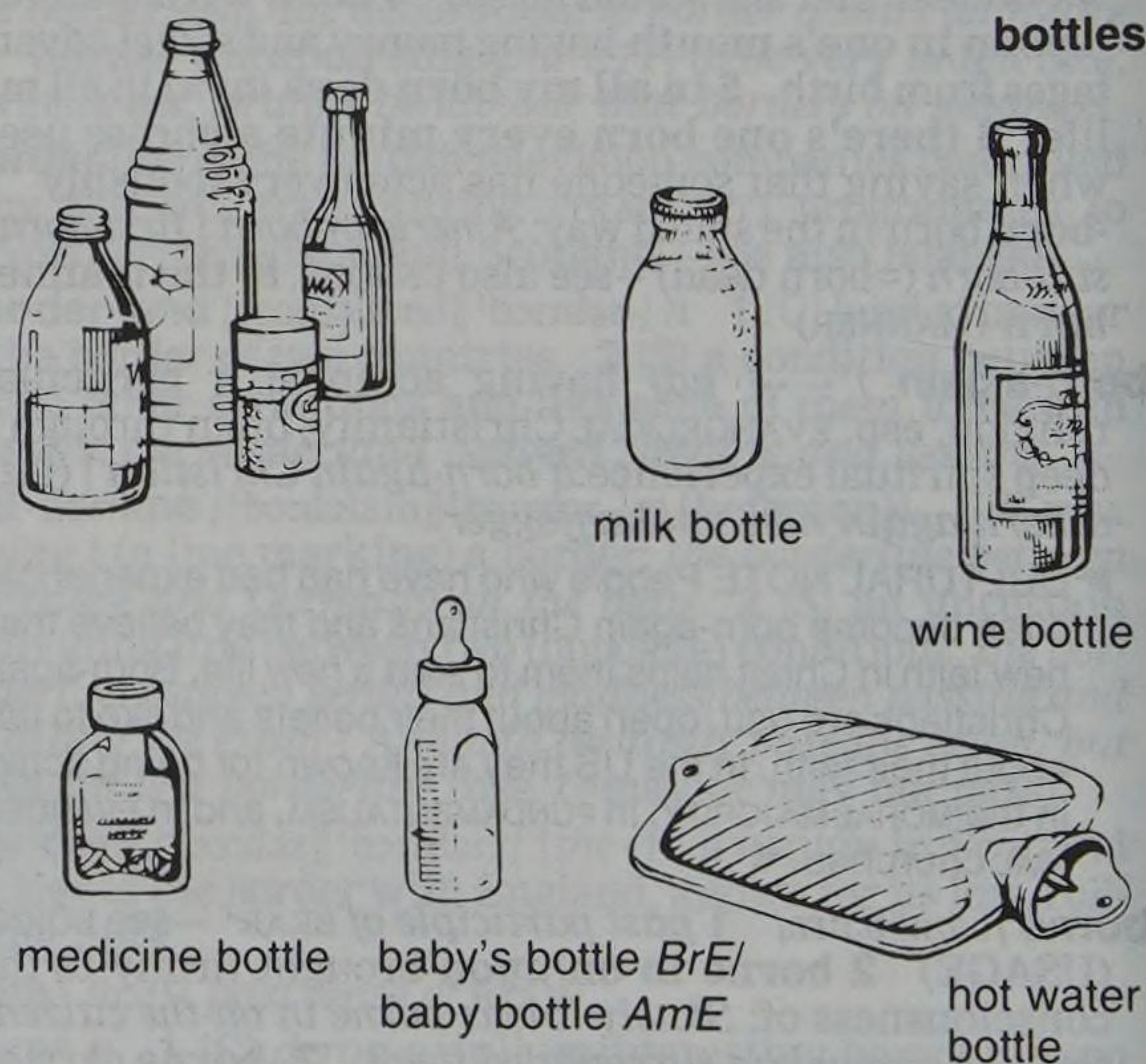
bother 2 *n* 1 [S;U] (a) trouble, inconvenience, or anxiety (usu. caused by small matters and lasting a short time): *We had a bit of bother finding our way here.* | *“I don't want to be a bother (to you), but could I stay here tonight?” “Certainly. It's no bother at all.”* 2 [U] *BrE infml* fighting or public disorder: *There was a spot of bother here today.* | *The gang have gone out looking for bother.* (=to make trouble)

both-er-a-tion /ˌbɒðərɪˈeɪʃən/ ˈbaɪz-/ *interj* old-fash, esp *BrE* (used for expressing slight annoyance): *Botheration – I've dropped my glasses.*

both-er-some /ˈbɒðəsəm/ ˈbaɪzə-/ *adj* causing bother: *bothersome demands/people*

Bot-swa-na /bɒtˈswɑːnə/ ˈbaɪz-/ a country in central S Africa; capital Gaborone; population 1,256,000 (1989)

Bot-ti-cel-li /ˌbɒtɪˈtʃeli/ ˈbaɪz-/ **San-dro** /ˈsændrəʊ/ (?1444–1510) an Italian painter of the RENAISSANCE, best known for *Primavera* and *The Birth of Venus*



see also pictures at **decanter** and **flask**

bot-tle 1 /ˈbɒtl/ ˈbaɪtl/ *n* 1 [C] a container for liquids, usu. made of glass or plastic, with a rather narrow neck or mouth, and usu. no handle: *an empty milk bottle* | *to unscrew the top of a bottle* | *to uncork a wine bottle* | (*infml*) *Why don't we crack open another bottle of champagne?* 2 [C (of)] also **bot-tle-ful** /-fʊl/ – the quantity held by a bottle: *We drank a whole bottle/two bottlefuls of wine!* 3 [*the*] alcoholic drink: *He hit the bottle when he lost his job.* | *She gave up for a while, but she's back on the bottle again now.* 4 [C usu. sing.] milk in bottles used in place of mother's milk: *to give the baby its bottle* 5 [U] *BrE sl* courage; daring; NERVE: *You have to hand it to her – she's got (a lot of) bottle.*

bottle 2 *v* [T] 1 to put into bottles: *a machine for bottling wine* 2 to preserve (fruit, etc.) in bottles

bottle out *phr v* [I(of)] *BrE sl* to refuse to do something because one is afraid

bottle sthg. ↔ **up** *phr* *v* [T] to control (feelings) in an unhealthy way: *Tell us what's worrying you – don't bottle it up!*

bottle bank /'..../ *n* *BrE* a container in the street into which people can put empty bottles, so that the glass can be reused

bottle-feed /'..../ *v* **-fed** /fed/ [T] to feed (a baby or baby animal) with a bottle, rather than with the breast – **ing** *n* [U]

bottle green /'..../ *adj* very dark green – **bottle green** *n* [U]

bot-tle-neck /'bɒtlnek/ *n* a narrow part of a road which slows down traffic: (fig.) *a bottleneck in production*

bottle o-pen-er /'..../ *n* a small metal instrument, used to open bottles, esp. beer bottles, with metal lids

bottle tan /'..../ *n* *AmE infml* a **TAN**² (2) (=a brown colour of the skin) which is obtained by applying a special liquid to the skin, rather than by the action of the sun alone: *She's too busy to go to the beach so she has a bottle tan.* – **bottle tan** *v* [I]: *She's too busy to go to the beach so she's bottle tanning.*

bot-tom¹ /'bɒtəm/ *n* **1** [the (of)] the lowest part of something: *I eventually found the keys at the bottom of my bag.* | *at the bottom of the page/list* | *It's on the third line from the bottom of the page.* | *The body was found at the bottom of a deserted mine shaft.* | *The bottom floor of a building.* | *The police searched the house from top to bottom.* | (fig.) *She thanked them from the bottom of her heart.* (=very sincerely) **2** [C (of)] the base on which something stands: *The wet bottoms of the glasses made marks on the table.* | *to pack the bottles bottom up* (=upside down) **3** [C] the part of the body on which one sits; **BUTTOCKS**: *to smack a child's bottom* **4** [the;U] the ground under the sea, a lake, or a river: *They sent the enemy ship to the bottom (of the sea).* | *This part is too deep for swimming: I can't touch bottom.* | *the river-bottom.* **5** [the;U] the least important, least valuable, or least favourable part of anything; the lowest level: *He is always at the bottom of the class.* | *He started life at the bottom (of the ladder), and worked his way up.* | *They bought their house when prices were at rock bottom.* | *Sheffield United are at the bottom of League Division One.* **6** [the (of)] the far end: *I'll walk with you to the bottom of the road.* | (*BrE*) *We grow vegetables at the bottom of our garden.* **7** [the+of] the starting point; cause or origin: *Who is at the bottom of all this trouble? I intend to get to the bottom of it.* (=find out the cause) **8** [(in) U] the lowest **GEAR** of a motor vehicle **9** [C] also **bottoms** *pl.* – the lower part of a two-piece garment: *pyjama bottoms* **10** [C] *naut* the part of a ship below the water **11** *AmE* the second half of an **INNING**: *It's the bottom of the seventh and the score is tied 3-all.* **12** **at bottom** really; in spite of appearances: *He pretends to be very tough, but he's a kind man at bottom.* **13** **Bottoms 'up!** *infml*, esp. humor Empty your glasses! Finish your drinks! **14** **the bottom has fallen out of the market** prices and demand for products have fallen to a very low level **15** **-bottomed** /bɒtəmd/ *adj* having the stated kind of bottom: *round-bottomed glasses* | *a fat-bottomed woman* – see also **bet one's bottom dollar** (**BET**²), **knock the bottom out of** (**KNOCK**¹ (9)); compare **TOP**¹

bottom² *v*

bottom out *phr* *v* [I] to reach the lowest point before rising again: *The price of oil bottomed out at \$12 a barrel and has now started to rise again.*

Bottom a **COMIC** character in Shakespeare's play *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, who is turned into an **ASS**

bottom drawer /'..../ *BrE* || **hope chest** *AmE* – *n* [*usu. sing.*] old use *infml* the clothes, sheets, and other things needed for starting a home which a girl collects before getting married – compare **TOP DRAWER**

bot-tom-less /'bɒtəmləs/ *adj* with no bottom or limit; very deep: *a bottomless well* | (fig.) *The bank's chairman said that giving loans to that country was like pouring money into a bottomless pit.*

bottom line /'..../ *n* [the] **1** the amount of money shown (as profit or loss) at the bottom of a set of accounts **2** the most important result in the end, esp. with regard to money; **OUTCOME**: *If we make all the changes I am proposing, the bottom line is that the company will save £50,000.*

bot-u-lis-m /'bɒtʃlɪzəm/ *n* [U] serious food poisoning caused by bacteria in preserved meat and vegetables

Boudicca



Bou-dic-ca /'bu:ðɪkə/ *n* also **Boadicea** – (died AD 60) the Queen of the Iceni people of eastern Britain, who led them in battle against the Romans. In pictures, Boudicca is usu. shown driving a **CHARIOT**.

bou-doir /'bu:dwɑ:ʔ/ *n* (esp. in former times) a woman's dressing room, bedroom, or private sitting room

bouf-fant /'bu:fɒn, -fɒnt/ *adj* (of hair or a piece of clothing) puffed out (**PUFF** out)

bou-gain-vil-le-a, **-laea** /'bu:gən'vɪliə/ *n* a climbing plant with large red and purple flowers which grows in hot countries

bough /baʊ/ *n* esp. *lit* a main branch of a tree

bought /bɔ:t/ *past tense & participle* of **BUY**¹

bouil-la-baisse /'bu:ʒə'bes/ *n* [C;U] a strong-tasting **STEW** made from fish

bouil-lon /'bu:ʒɒn/ *n* [C;U] a clear soup made by boiling meat and vegetables in water

boul-der /'bəʊldə/ *n* a large stone or mass of rock

boules /bu:z/ *n* [U] an outdoor game played esp. in France, in which one tries to throw or roll a big usu. metal ball as near as possible to a small ball (the **JACK**)

boule-vard /'bu:lvɑ:d/ *n* (written abbrev. **blvd**) *n* (part of the name of) a broad street in a town, sometimes having trees on each side: *Sunset Boulevard*

Bou-lez /'bu:lez/ *n* **Pi-erre** /pi'eə/ (1925–) a French **COMPOSER** and **CONDUCTOR** known for his modern music

Bou-logne /bu'lɒŋ/ *n* a city on the NE coast of France, known for being one of the ports where ferries (**FERRY**¹) from Dover arrive when crossing the English Channel

bounce¹ /baʊns/ *v* **1** [I;T] **a** (of a ball) to spring back or up again after hitting a surface; **REBOUND**: *The ball hit the wall and bounced off it.* **b** to cause (a ball) to do this: *to bounce a ball against a wall* | (fig.) *The message is sent across the Atlantic by bouncing radio waves off a satellite.* **2** [I+adv/prep;T+obj+adv/prep] to move with a springing movement, often suddenly or noisily: *She bounced into the room.* | *I bounced the baby on my knee.* **3** [I] (of a cheque) to be returned by a bank as worthless – compare **DISHONOUR**² (2)

bounce back *phr* *v* [I] to return to one's former strong or active state, after a failure or misfortune

bounce² *n* **1** [C] an act of bouncing **2** [U] the quality of bouncing well **3** [U] *infml* liveliness; **VIGOUR**

bounc-er /'baʊnsə/ *n* **1** *infml* a strong man employed, esp. at a club or restaurant, to throw out unwelcome customers **2** (in cricket) a fast ball that passes or hits the **BATSMAN** at above chest height after it bounces (**BOUNCE**)

bounc-ing /'baʊnsɪŋ/ *adj* [A] *apprec* (esp. of babies) healthy and active

bouncing bomb /'..../ *n* a bomb developed by Barnes Wallis (1887–1979). Bouncing bombs were used during the Second World War against the Germans by the Royal Air Force **Dambusters Squadron**. – see also **DAMBUSTERS**

bounc-y /'baʊnsi/ *adj* **1** full of life and confidence, and eager for action: *a bouncy person/manner* **2** that bounces well: *a bouncy ball* – **ily** *adv* – **iness** *n* [U]

bound¹ /baʊnd/ *past tense & participle* of **BIND**¹: *The prisoner was bound to a stake and shot.*

bound² *adj* **1** [F+to-v] very likely; certain: *It's bound to rain soon.* | *In a group as big as this, you are bound to get occasional disagreements.* **2** [F+to-v] having a duty, legally or morally, to do something: *The priest was bound by his position to withhold the information from the*

police. | *She thinks it's a crazy idea, and I'm bound to say I agree with her.* | *You are not legally bound to answer these questions.* **3** [(in)] (of a book) fastened within covers: *a cloth-bound volume* | *a Bible bound in leather* **4** *tech* (in grammar) always found in combination with another form: "Un-" and "-er" are **bound forms** in the words "unknown" and "speaker". —opposite **free** **5** **bound up in** very busy with or interested in; PREOCCUPIED: *She is bound up in her own problems.* **6** **bound up with** dependent on; connected with: *His future is closely bound up with that of the company.* **7** **I'll be bound** *old-fash infml* I'm quite certain

bound³ *n* a jump or LEAP: *With one bound, he was over the wall.* | (fig.) *Jill's making excellent progress; she's coming along in leaps and bounds.* —see also BOUNDS

bound⁴ *v* [I+adv/prep] **1** to move along quickly by jumping or leaping (LEAP) movements: *The dog bounded away/down the hill.* **2** to spring or BOUNCE back from a surface

bound⁵ *adj* [(for)] going to or intending to go to: *bound for home* | *homeward-bound* | *We boarded a plane bound for New York.*

bound⁶ *v* [T usu. pass.] to mark or form the boundaries or limits of: *The US is bounded in/on the north by Canada and in/on the south by Mexico.* —see also BOUNDS

bound-ary /'baʊndəri/ *n* **1** [(between)] the dividing line, esp. between two areas of land: *A river forms the boundary (line) between the two countries.* **2** the outer limit of anything: *The boundaries of human knowledge are constantly being extended.* **3** (in cricket) the outer limit of the playing area, often marked by a rope **4** (in cricket) a shot that sends the ball across the boundary giving 4 or 6 points

bound-en /'baʊndən/ *adj* [A] *fml*, becoming rare necessary; OBLIGATORY (in the phrase **bounden duty**)

bound-er /'baʊndər/ *n* *BrE old use sl* a dishonourable man who does not behave in a socially acceptable way; CAD

bound-less /'baʊndləs/ *adj* without limits: *boundless wealth/imagination* —*~ly adv* —*~ness n* [U]

bounds /baʊndz/ *n* [P] the furthest limits or edges of something; the limits beyond which it is impossible or undesirable to go: *You must keep your spending within bounds.* | *His greed for power knows no bounds.* | *The pub was out of bounds (=forbidden) to the schoolboys.* | *It is not beyond the bounds of possibility (=it is possible, though perhaps unlikely) that he is telling the truth.*

boun-te-ous /'baʊntiəs/ *adj fml* or *lit* giving or given freely; generous: *bounteous gifts* —*~ly adv* —*~ness n* [U]

boun-ti-ful /'baʊntɪfəl/ *adj fml* or *lit* generous; in large quantities: *a bountiful supply*

boun-ty /'baʊnti/ *n* **1** [C] money paid by a government, esp. formerly, for some special reason (e.g. as a reward for joining the army or catching a criminal) **2** [U] *esp. lit* generosity

Bounty *n tdmk* a kind of chocolate bar containing COCONUT, sold in Britain

Bounty, **The** also **HMS Bounty**— the name of a British naval ship famous for being the scene of a MUTINY in 1789 in the Pacific ocean and the subject of several films —see also Captain William BLIGH, MUTINY ON THE BOUNTY

bou-quet /bəʊ'keɪ, buː-/ *n* **1** [C] a bunch of flowers given, usu. to a woman, on a special occasion, e.g. her birthday, or to say thank you for something: *At the end of the concert, the singer was presented with a bouquet of roses.* **2** [C] a bunch of flowers carried by a BRIDE —see also extra information on page 1406 **3** [C;U] the smell of wine: *a rich bouquet*

bou-quet gar-ni /,buːkeɪ 'gɑːni/, buːkeɪ gɑːr'nɪz/ *n* a small bunch of fresh or dried HERBS in a small cloth bag which is used in cooking and removed before the dish is served

bour-bon /'bɜːbən/ 'bɜːr-/ *n* [U] a type of American WHISKEY made from MAIZE, MALT, and RYE, named after Bourbon County in the state of Kentucky

bour-bon bis-cuit /,buəbən 'bɪskɪt/, bɜːr-/ *n* (often *cap.*) *BrE* a chocolate BISCUIT consisting of two halves with chocolate cream in the middle

bour-geois¹ /'buəʒwaːz/ buə'r'ʒwaːz/ *adj old-fash* **1** belonging to or typical of the MIDDLE CLASS **2** *derog* too interested in material possessions and one's social position

bourgeois² *n bourgeois often derog* a member of the

MIDDLE CLASS, esp. one who is too interested in material possessions and social position

bour-geoi-sie /,buəʒwaː'ziː/, buə-/ *n* [the+sing./pl. v] *old-fash* the MIDDLE CLASS —compare PROLETARIAT

ourn¹ /bɔːn/ buːr-/ *n old use* (now used mainly in place names) a small stream

ourn² *n old use or lit* a limit; border: ". . . death/The undiscovered country from whose bourn/No traveller returns. . ." (Shakespeare, *Hamlet*)

Bourne-mouth /'bɔːnməθ/ 'bɔːr-/ a town on the S coast of England where people go on holiday, also known for being a CONFERENCE centre and popular RETIREMENT place

bour-sin /'buəsən/ buə'r'sæn/ *n* [U] *tdmk* a soft creamy French cheese made with GARLIC and HERBS

Bourn-ville /'bɔːnvɪl/ 'bɔːr-/ *n* [U] *tdmk* a kind of dark chocolate made by Cadbury's

bout /baʊt/ *n* **1** [(of)] a short period of great activity: *one of his intermittent bouts of drinking* **2** [(of)] an attack of illness: *a bout of flu* **3** a BOXING match

bou-tique /buː'tɪk/ *n* a small shop, or a department of a larger shop, selling up-to-date clothes and other fashionable personal articles, esp. for young people or women

bou-ton-ni-ere /buː, tɒni'eə/, buːt'nɪər/ *n AmE* for BUTTONHOLE¹ (2)

Bou-tros-Gha-li /,buːtrɒs 'gɑːlɪz/-trɒs-/, **Dr Boutros** (1923–) the SECRETARY-GENERAL to the UN from 1991

bo-vine /'bəʊvaɪn/ *adj* of or like a cow or ox, esp. in being slow-thinking and slow-moving

Bov-ril /'bɒvrɪl/ 'bɑːv-/ *n* [U] *tdmk* a dark brown substance made from the meat of a cow, which is used in Britain to make a drink, or added to foods when cooking

bov-ver /'bɒvər/ 'bɑː-/ *n* [U] *BrE old-fash sl* violence or threatening behaviour, esp. by groups of young men: *a bouver boy* | *bouver boots*

bow¹ /baʊ/ *v* **1** [I (DOWN, before, to)] to bend the upper part of the body forward, as a way of showing respect, admitting defeat, etc.: *He bowed (down) to/before the Queen.* | *Muslims bow to Mecca when they pray.* **2** [T (DOWN)] to bend (one's head) forward: *He bowed his head in shame/stood with his head bowed in shame.* **3** **bow and scrape** *usu. derog* to behave to someone with too much politeness and obedience

bow down *phr v* [I (to)] *esp. lit* to admit defeat and agree to obey: *We shall never bow down to our enemies.*

bow out *phr v* [I (of)] to give up a position or stop taking part in something; WITHDRAW: *The chairman will be bowing out next year, and one of the younger directors will take over.*

bow to sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] **1** to accept or obey, esp. unwillingly: *to bow to someone's judgment/greater experience* | *I'm not at all happy about it, but I suppose I'll have to bow to the inevitable.* **2** **bow to no one** to claim the highest place for oneself: *I bow to no one in my admiration for her work, but I have some doubts about this latest idea of hers.*

bow² /baʊ/ *n* **1** an act of bending forward the head or the upper part of the body, esp. to show respect: *He gave a deep/low bow.* —compare CURTSY **2** **take a bow** to come on stage to receive praise (APPLAUSE) at the end of a performance

bow³ /bəʊ/ *n* **1** a weapon for shooting ARROWS consisting of a long thin piece of wood held in a curve by a tight string —see also CROSSBOW, and see picture at LONGBOW **2** a long thin piece of wood with a tight string fastened along it, used for playing musical instruments that have strings **3** a knot formed by doubling a string or cord into two curved pieces, and used for decoration in the hair, in tying shoes, etc.: *She tied the ribbon in a tight/loose bow.* —see also BOW WINDOW, **a second string to one's bow** (STRING¹)

bow⁴ /bəʊ/ *v tech* **1** [I] to bend or curve **2** [T+obj+adv/prep] to play (a piece of music) on a musical instrument with a BOW³ (2)

bow⁵ /baʊ/ also **bows** *pl.* — *n* the front part of a ship —see picture at YACHT; see also **a shot across the bows** (SHOT¹), and compare STERN²

Bow Bells /,bəʊ 'belz/ the church bells of St Mary-le-Bow in London. It is said that a person born within the sound of (=able to hear) Bow Bells is a true Londoner, or Cockney —see also COCKNEY

bowdlerize also **-ise** *BrE* /'baʊdləraɪz/ *v* [T] *usu. derog* to remove (from a book, play, etc.) those parts considered rude or shocking: *a bowdlerized edition of Shakespeare*

bow-els /'baʊəlz/ *n* [P] **1** also **bowel**— a system of pipes from the stomach which carries the waste matter out of the body; the SMALL INTESTINE and LARGE INTESTINE **2** [+of] the deepest inner part of something (esp. in the phrase **the bowels of the earth**) —**bowel** *adj* [A] : *a bowel disorder*

bow-er /'baʊər/ *n* **1** a pleasant shaded place under trees **2** *old use or lit* a BOUDOIR

Bow Group /'bəʊ grʊp/ [*the*] a centre-right political group inside the Conservative Party that tries to influence government action

Bo-wie /'bəʊi/, **David** (1947–) an English songwriter and singer of popular music, who has also acted in plays and films —see colour picture on page 554

bowl¹ /bəʊl/ *n* **1** (*often in comb.*) a deep round container open at the top, esp. one deeper than a BASIN, for holding liquids, flowers, etc.: *a soup bowl* | *cereal bowl* | *sugar bowl* | *a fruit bowl* | *a glass bowl* **2** [(of)] also **bowl-ful** /-fʊl/— the amount a bowl will hold: *a bowl of fruit/rice* **3** anything in the shape of a bowl: *the bowl of a tobacco pipe/of a spoon/of a toilet* **4** **a bowl of cherries** a very pleasant thing, usu. in the phrase **life isn't just a bowl of cherries**

bowl² *v* **1** [I;T] **a** (in BOWLS or BOWLING) to roll (a ball) along a surface **b** (in cricket) to throw (a ball) at the BATSMAN **2** [T (OUT)] (in cricket) to force (a BATSMAN) to leave the field by hitting the WICKET behind him with a ball: *He bowled me (out) with the very first ball!*

bowl along *phr v* [I] to move smoothly and quickly along: *The car bowled along at 90 mph.*

bowl sbdy. ↔ **over** *phr v* [T] **1** to knock down by running: *Someone ran round the corner and nearly bowled me over.* **2** [*usu. pass.*] to give a great, esp. pleasant, surprise to: *I was really bowled over by the news.*

bowl³ *n* **1** a ball for rolling in the game of BOWLS **2** an act of rolling the ball in BOWLS or BOWLING

bow-leg-ged /,bəʊ'legɪd, -'legd/ || 'bəʊlegɪd, -legd/ *adj* (esp. of a person) having the legs curving outwards at the knee

bowl-er¹ /'bəʊlə/ *n* a person who BOWLS², esp. in cricket —see picture at CRICKET

bowler² also **bowler hat** /,bəʊ'leɪ/ *BrE* || **derby** *AmE*— *n* a man's round hard hat, usu. black, worn esp. by men who work in the City of London. Bowler hats are not often worn now and are thought of as being old-fashioned, but they still appear in humorous drawings and advertisements which show the typical Englishman: *the bowler hat brigade* —see picture at HAT

bowl game /'bəʊl ɡeɪm/ *n* (in FOOTBALL (2)) a match played as a special event, sometimes to determine the best team in a group of (usu. college) teams: *Many bowl games are played around Christmas and New Year's Day.*

bowling /'bəʊlɪŋ/ also **tenpin bowling**— *n* [U] an indoor game in which a large heavy ball is rolled along a wooden track in an attempt to knock down bottle-shaped wooden objects —compare BOWLS

bowling alley /'bəʊlɪŋ ˈæli/ *n* a place for rolling the ball in BOWLING, or SKITTLES

bowling ball /'bəʊlɪŋ ˈbɔːl/ *n* the heavy ball used in bowling, which contains holes for fingers and thumb

bowling green /'bəʊlɪŋ ɡriːn/ *n* an area of short smooth grass for playing BOWLS

bowls /bəʊlz/ *n* [U] an outdoor game played on grass in which one tries to roll a big ball as near as possible to the JACK (a small ball). Bowls is usu. played by older people —compare BOWLING

bow-man /'bəʊmən/ *n* -men /mən/ *old use* an ARCHER

bow-shot /'bəʊʃɒt/ || -ʃa:t/ *n* [*usu. sing.*] *esp. lit* the distance from the place where an ARROW is fired, to the place where it lands

bow-sprit /'bəʊ, sprɪt/ || 'baʊ-, 'bəʊ-/ *n* a pole sticking out from the front of a ship (BOW^s), to which ropes from the sails are fastened

Bow Street /'bəʊ stri:t/ a street in London where there is a police court: *He was remanded in custody until 28 June by Bow Street Magistrates.*

Bow Street run-ner /,bəʊ'stri:t ˈrʌnər/ *n* a member of the first police force in London, set up in 1748

bow tie /,bəʊ ˈtaɪ/ *n* a short TIE fastened at the front with a knot in the shape of a BOW³ (3), worn esp. on formal occasions: *a bow tie affair*

bow win-dow /,bəʊ ˈwɪndəʊ/ *n* a window built outwards from the wall in a curve —compare BAY WINDOW

bow-wow /,bəʊ ˈwaʊ/ || also **arf** or **woof** *AmE interj* (a word meant to be like the sound a dog makes)

box¹ /bɒks/ || bɑːks/ *n* **1** [C] (*often in comb.*) a container for solid objects or substances, usu. with stiff straight sides and often with a lid: *a wooden/cardboard box* | *a tool box* | *a shoebox* | *a box of matches/tissues* **2** [C (of)] the amount a box will hold: *We ate a whole box of chocolates.* **3** [C] a small room or enclosed space: *a telephone box* | *the witness box in a law-court* | *the signal box on a railway line* **4** [C] a small enclosed space with seats in a theatre, separate from the main seating area: *the royal box* —see picture at THEATRE **5** [C] an apparatus used by cricketers to protect the male sex organs **6** [*the*] *sl* television: *What's on the box tonight?* **7** [C] a PO BOX **8** **open the box** a phrase from a British television game show of the 1950s. In the game, a person had to choose between accepting an amount of money and opening a special box that might contain more money or a special prize, or might contain nothing at all. —see also BLACK BOX, CHRISTMAS BOX, MUSICAL BOX, WINDOW BOX

box² *v* [T] **1** to put in a box or boxes: *a boxed set of books by the same author* **2** **box the compass:** **a** to name all 32 points of the COMPASS in their correct order **b** to change course completely; do the opposite of what was done at the beginning

box sbdy./sthg. ↔ **in/up** *phr v* [T *often pass.*] to enclose in a small space; CONFINE: *She feels very boxed in/up in that tiny flat.*

box³ *v* [I (with, against); T] **1** to fight (someone) with the FISTS (=closed hands), esp. as a sport —compare WRESTLE **2** **box someone's ears** *infml* to hit someone on the ears with the hands, esp. as a punishment

box⁴ *n* **give/get a box on the ears** *infml* to hit/be hit on the ears

box⁵ *n* **1** [C;U] a small tree that keeps its dark stiff leaves during the winter, often planted in rows as a wall or fence: *a box hedge* **2** [U] also **boxwood**— the hard wood of this tree

Box and Cox /,bɒks ˈənd ˈkɒks/ *adj, adv BrE old-fash infml* sharing something by taking turns

box-car /'bɒkskɑːr/ || 'bɑːks-/ *n AmE* a roofed railway carriage that carries goods

box end wrench /,bɒks ˈend ˈwɪtʃ/ *n AmE* for RING SPANNER —see picture at TOOL

box-er /'bɒksər/ || 'bɑːk-/ *n* **1** a person who boxes, esp. professionally **2** a large short-haired dog, usu. light brown in colour

boxer shorts /'bɒksər ˈʃɔːts/ *n* [P] underclothes for men, covering the lower part of the body and the top part of the leg and made of thin material, usu. cotton —see PAIR (USAGE)

box-ing /'bɒksɪŋ/ || 'bɑːk-/ *n* [U] the sport of fighting with the FISTS (=closed hands): *a boxing match* —see REFEREE (USAGE) —see picture at GLOVE

Boxing Day /'bɒksɪŋ ˈdeɪ/ *n BrE* [C;U] a public holiday in England and Wales, on the first day after Christmas Day that is not a Sunday

box junction /'bɒks ˈdʒʌŋkʃən/ *n BrE* a road JUNCTION with a pattern of crossed yellow lines to warn drivers not to enter the area until the way out is clear of traffic

box num-ber /'bɒks ˈnʌmbər/ *n* || also **post office box**, —**PO Box** a number used as a mailing address, esp. in replying to newspaper advertisements

box of-fice /'bɒks ˈɒfɪs/ *n* a place in a theatre, cinema, concert hall, etc., where tickets are sold: *Let's meet at the box office.* | *The play got bad reviews, but in box-office terms it was a great success.* (=it was popular and therefore profitable)

box-room /'bɒksrʊm, -ruːm/ || 'bɑːks-/ *n BrE* a small room in a house where SUITCASES, furniture, etc., are stored

box-wood /'bɒkswʊd/ || 'bɑːks-/ *n* [U] BOX⁵ (2)

boy¹ /bɔɪ/ *n* **1** a young male person: *Our new baby is a boy.* | *"Come here, boy!" shouted the old man.* | *There's a new boy in our class at school.* | *a boy actor* —see CHILD (USAGE) **2** a son, esp. a young one: *My little boy hates sausages.* | *We've got two boys and one girl.* **3** (often in comb.) a boy or man working at a particular job: *a cowboy* | *a delivery-boy* | *an office boy* **4** *infml*, esp. AmE a male person of any age from a particular place: *The people are proud of the local boy who became president.* **5** becoming rare (now considered offensive) a male servant of any age **6** *old-fash* or *humor* (used in forming phrases for addressing men): *Thank you, my boy/dear boy/old boy.* **7** **boys will be boys** saying it is in the character of boys to do rough and dangerous things **8** **what are little boys made of?** a line from a NURSERY RHYME (=an old song or poem for children). The answer is "slugs and snails and puppy dogs' tails". —see also **what are little girls made of?** (GIRL) —see also BOYS, BLUE-EYED BOY, OLD BOY, PRINCIPAL BOY, WHIPPING BOY, WIDE BOY

boy² *interj infml*, esp. AmE (expressing excitement): *Boy, what a game!*

boy-cott /'bɔɪkɒt/-kɑ:t/ *v* [T] to refuse to do business with, attend, or take part in, as a way of showing disapproval and opposition: *They're boycotting the shop because the people there are on strike.* | *to boycott a meeting* —**boycott** *n*: to declare a boycott

Boycott, Geof-frey /'dʒefri/ (1940–) an English cricketer, born in Yorkshire, who is known for the many RUNS he has made in TEST cricket

boy-friend /'bɔɪfrend/ *n* **1** a frequent or regular male friend of a girl or woman, to whom she is not married. The word is used esp. when talking about the relationships of young people. Older people usu. prefer to use the word "partner" or "friend". **2** *euph* a male lover

Boy George /, . ' / (1961–) a British popular music singer who became successful with the group Culture Club in the early 1980s. He often dresses like a woman, and wears heavy makeup.

boy-hood /'bɔɪhʊd/ *n* [C *usu. sing.*; U] the state or time of being a young boy —see also CHILDHOOD, GIRLHOOD

boy-ish /'bɔɪ-ɪʃ/ *adj* often *apprec* of or like a boy, esp. in appearance: *his boyish charm* | *her boyish figure* — *~ly adv* — *~ness n* [U]

Boyne /bɔɪn/, **Battle of the** the battle on the banks of the river Boyne in the Irish Republic where William III defeated James II in 1690, finally destroying Stuart chances of claiming the country

boys /bɔɪz/ *n* [the+P] *infml* a man's male friends; a group of men: *to spend a night out with the boys*

Boys' Bri-gade /, . ' / [the] an organization which was set up in Britain in 1883 to encourage boys to develop team spirit and responsible behaviour

boy scout /, . ' / *n* a SCOUT¹ (1a)

boy-sen-ber-ry /'bɔɪzənberi/-beri/ *n* a fruit similar to BLACKBERRY

Boys' Own /, . ' / *adj* (used to describe men) doing brave, exciting things, like a HERO in an adventure story. The **Boys' Own Paper** was a boys' magazine sold in the late 19th century and early 20th century in Britain which contained adventure stories: *He has been called a swashbuckling Boys' Own hero.* | *His background is the stuff of boys' own papers.*

Boy Won-der /, . ' / see ROBIN

bo-zo /'bɔʊzəʊ/ *n* -zos *sl*, esp.

AmE a person who is stupid or foolish, or who behaves like a CLOWN

BP /, bi: 'pi:/ **1** British Petroleum; a British company producing petrol and chemicals **2** British Pharmacopeia; a book listing drugs with their uses, etc., as approved by the British medical bodies

BPhil /, bi: 'fɪl/ *n* Bachelor of Philosophy; (a title for someone who has) a degree gained after study at an

institution of further education, e.g. a university

B.P.O.E. *written abbrev. for* The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks —see ELKS

Br *written abbrev. for:* **1** BROTHER¹ (2) in a religious society: *Br Maurice* **2** British

BR /, bi: 'ɑ:t/ *abbrev. for* BRITISH RAIL

bra /brɑ:/ also **brassiere** *fml*— *n* a woman's close-fitting undergarment worn to support the breasts. In the 1960s many women who supported the WOMEN'S LIBERATION movement burnt their bras as a protest.

brace¹ /breɪs/ *n* **1** something used or worn for supporting, stiffening, or fastening **2** a wire frame worn inside the mouth, usu. by children, to make their teeth straight **3** either of a pair of signs { } used for connecting information printed on more than one line —compare BRACKET¹ (2) **4** (*pl. brace*) [(of)] (esp. in hunting or shooting) two of a kind; a pair: *three brace of pheasants* —see also BRACES

brace² *v* [T] **1** to make stronger, esp. by supporting with a brace: *We had to brace the walls when we put the new roof on.* **2** [(for)] to prepare (oneself) for something unpleasant or difficult: *Brace yourself for a shock!* | *The country is bracing itself for the threatened enemy invasion.*

brace and bit /, . ' / *n* a simple hand tool used for making holes in wood

brace-let /'breɪslɪt/ *n* a band or ring worn round the wrist or arm as a decoration: *a gold bracelet* —compare BANGLE

brac-es /'breɪsɪz/ *BrE* || **suspenders** *AmE*— *n* [P] a pair of elastic cloth bands worn over the shoulders by men to hold up trousers —see PAIR (USAGE)

brac-ing /'breɪsɪŋ/ *adj* *apprec* (esp. of air) fresh and health-giving; invigorating (INVIGORATE): *a bracing sea breeze* | *a bracing climate*

brack-en /'brækən/ *n* [U] a plant (a kind of FERN) which commonly grows in woods and forests, on hills, etc., and becomes a rich red-brown in autumn

brack-et¹ /'brækɪt/ *n* **1** a structure of metal, wood, or plastic, often in the shape of a right angle, fixed to a wall to support something, such as a shelf or lamp **2** [*usu. pl.*] **a** also **square bracket**— either of the pair of signs [] used for enclosing a piece of information: *to put something in brackets* **b** also **angle bracket**— either of the pair of signs < > used for enclosing a piece of information **c** also **round bracket**— either of the pair of signs (); PARENTHESIS —compare BRACE¹ (3); see picture at PUNCTUATION MARK **3** a group or class fixed according to certain upper and lower limits: *a big tax cut for people in the upper income bracket* | *The party is popular with the 18–25 age bracket.*

bracket² *v* [T] **1** [(OFF)] to enclose in brackets **2** [(TOGETHER, with)] to regard, perhaps wrongly, as belonging to the same group or type: *In his article, the peace protesters were unfairly bracketed with the football hooligans.*

brack-ish /'brækɪʃ/ *adj* (of water) not pure; a little salty — *~ness n* [U]

Brack-nell¹ /'brækənəl/ a town in Berkshire, in S England

Bracknell², **Lady** a character in the play *The Importance of Being Earnest* by Oscar Wilde, remembered esp. for using the phrase "A handbag!"

brad-awl /'brædɔ:l/ *n* a small tool with a sharp point for making holes

Brad-bu-ry /'brædbəri/, **Mal-c olm** /'mælkəm/ (1932–) an English writer, known for his humorous books about life in universities, in particular *The History Man*

Brad-bu-ry /'brædbəri/-beri, -bəri/, **Ray** (1920–) an American writer of SCIENCE FICTION whose stories include *Fahrenheit 451* and *The Halloween Tree*

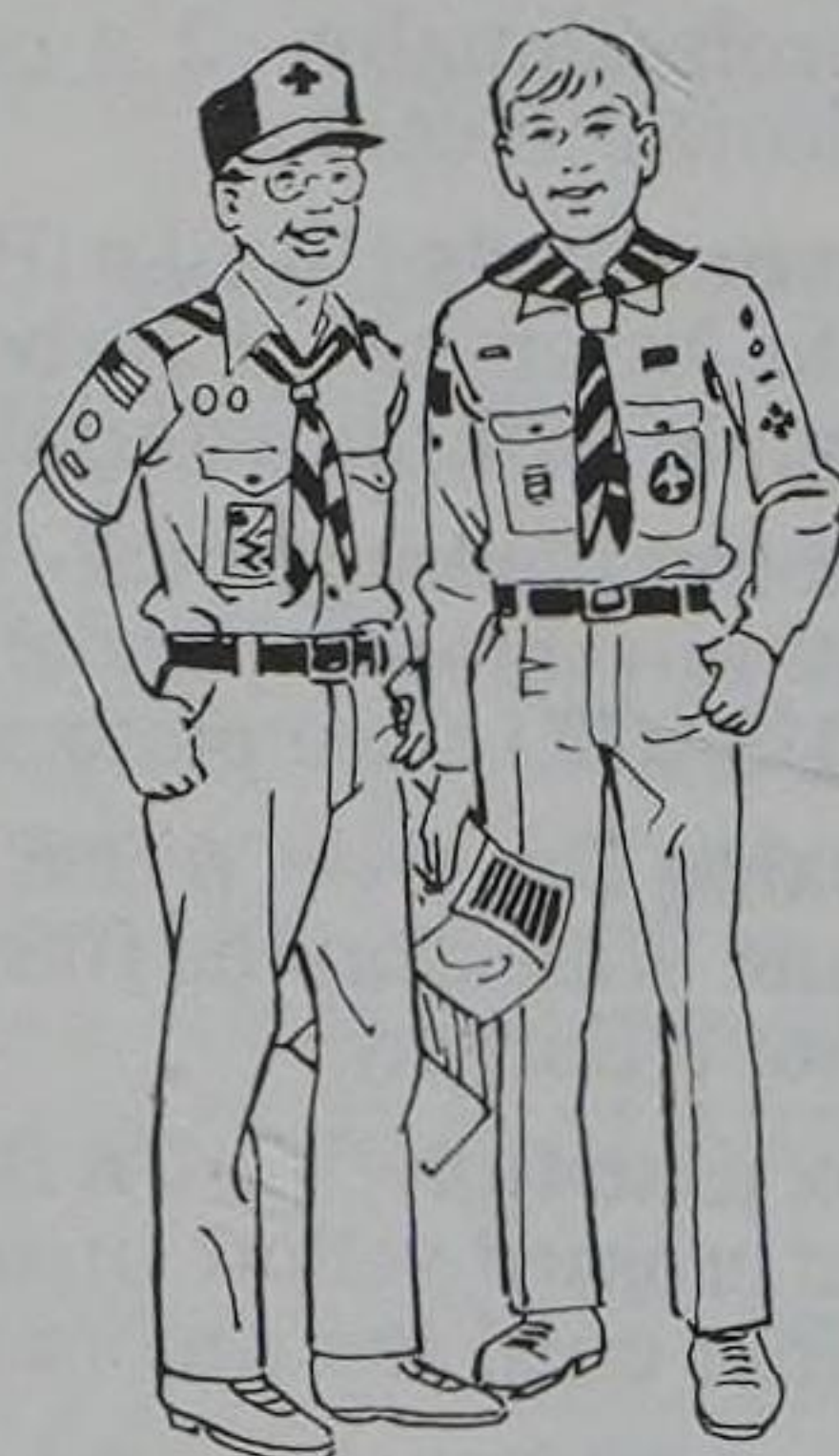
Brad-ford /'brædfəd/-fərd/ an industrial city in the N of England which is a centre of the woollen industry and where many Asian people now live

Brad-ford and Bing-ley /, brædfəd ənd 'bɪŋli/-fərd/ [the] a British BUILDING SOCIETY, branches of which are found in many towns and cities in Britain

Brad-man /'brædmən/, **Sir Don-ald** /'dɒnəld//dɑ:z/ (1908–) an Australian cricketer, one of the best batsmen (BATSMAN) ever to have played

Bra-dy Bunch /'breɪdi, bʌntʃ/, **The** an American television programme of the 1960s and 1970s about a large family. Some people talk about the Brady Bunch as an example

boy scouts



an American boy scout a British boy scout

of an impossibly good family with few real problems: *The family across the street seemed like the Brady Bunch at first, but we soon learned that there were all sorts of tensions underneath.*

brae /breɪ/ *n* ScotE a hillside; slope

brag /bræg/ *v* -gg- [I (about, of); T+that; obj] derog to talk too proudly about oneself, one's possessions, etc.; BOAST: *Don't brag! | She bragged about her connections in the film world. | Untidy work is nothing to brag about. | The boys bragged that they had committed several burglaries.*

Bragg /bræg/, **Mel-vyn** /'melvɪn/ (1939–) an English writer and broadcaster known for arts programmes such as *The South Bank Show* on television. Much of his writing is set in the Lake District.

brag-ga-do-ci-o /brægə'dəʊʃiəʊ/ *n* [U] esp. lit or humor noisy bragging

brag-gart /'brægət||-ərt/ *n* becoming rare a person who brags a lot

Brah-man /'brɑ:mən/ also **Brah-min** /'brɑ:mɪn/— *n* a Hindu of the highest rank in the Hindu CASTE system

Brah-ma-pu-tra /brɑ:mə'pu:trə/ a river in S Asia

Brahms /brɑ:mz/, **Jo-han-nes** /jəʊ'hænəs/ (1833–97) a German writer of music known for his symphonies (SYMPHONY) and CONCERTOS

Brahms and Liszt /, · · ' / *adj* [F] BrE sl for DRUNK

braid¹ /breɪd/ esp. AmE || **plait** esp. BrE— *v* [T] to twist together three or more lengths of (hair, thread, etc.) to form one ropelike length

braid² *n* 1 [U] threads of silk, gold, etc., twisted to form a narrow decorative border for material: *gold braid for a naval officer's uniform* 2 [C often pl.] esp. AmE || **plait** esp. BrE— a length of hair formed by twisting together three or more lengths

braille /breɪl/ *n* [U] (sometimes cap.) a form of printing with raised round marks which blind people can read by touching

brain¹ /breɪn/ *n* 1 [C] the organ of the body in the upper part of the head, which controls thought, feeling, and physical activity: *The brain is the centre of higher nervous activity. | He suffered severe brain damage as a result of the accident.* 2 [C;U] also **brains** pl.— the ability to think clearly, quickly, and well; INTELLIGENCE: *a good brain | She's certainly got a brain/plenty of brains. | He hasn't got much (of a) brain. | It takes brains to think of something like that!* 3 [C] also **brains** pl.— infml a person with a very good mind: *Some of the best brains in the country are working on this project. | His partner was the brains behind the venture.* 4 **have something on the brain** infml to think about something continually: *I've got that song on the brain today. | He seems to have sex on the brain!* 5 **-brained** /breɪnd/ having a brain of the stated type: *bird-brained* (=silly) | *scatterbrained* (=careless and unthinking) —see also **beat one's brains out** (BEAT¹ (10)), **blow someone's brains out** (BLOW¹ (16)), **rack one's brains** (RACK²)

brain² *v* [T] infml to hit (someone) very hard on the head, esp. so as to break their SKULL

brain-child /'breɪntʃaɪld/ *n* [S] infml someone's idea or invention, esp. if successful: *This festival was the brain-child of the local mayor.*

brain dam-age /' · · / *n* [U] any INJURY or damage to the brain, which may be either temporary or permanent: *She suffered brain damage in the car crash. | irreversible brain damage* **brain-damaged** *adj*: *severely brain-damaged | born brain-damaged*

brain dead /' · · / *adj* [no comp.] 1 *med* in a state in which brain death has happened: *She was pronounced brain dead on Sunday.* 2 infml, derog (of a person) stupid; slow to understand: *a television film for the brain dead*

brain death /' · · / *n* [U] *med* the failure of a person's breathing and other actions of the body because of brain damage, even though the heart may continue to beat when the body is on a life-supporting machine

brain drain /' · · / *n* a movement of large numbers of highly-skilled or professional people from the country where they were trained to other countries where they can earn more money

brain-less /'breɪnləs/ *adj* silly; stupid — *~ly* *adv*

brain-storm /'breɪnstɔ:m||-stɔ:rm/ *n* infml 1 BrE a sudden

disorder of the mind or change from sensible behaviour, lasting only a short time: *I had a brainstorm and forgot to sign any of the cheques.* 2 AmE for BRAINWAVE

brain-stor-ming /'breɪnstɔ:mɪŋ||-ɔ:r-/ *n* [U] esp. AmE a method of finding answers to problems in which all the members of a group think very quickly of as many ideas as they can

brains trust /' · · / BrE || **brain trust** AmE— *n* [C+sing./pl. v] a group of people with special knowledge and experience who answer questions or give advice

brain sur-geon /' · · / *n* a doctor who operates on the human brain. Brain surgeons are thought of as very well-educated, clever, and skilful people: *She's doing alright at school, but she'll never be a brain surgeon.*

brain-teas-er /'breɪntɪzəʳ/ *n* a problem to exercise the mind, esp. one that is to be answered for pleasure; PUZZLE

brain-wash /'breɪnwɒʃ||-wɔ:ʃ, -wɔ:ʃ/ *v* [T (into)] derog to cause (someone) to change their beliefs and ideas, by a system of forceful continuous persuading: *to brainwash political prisoners | (infml) Don't let those television advertisements brainwash you into buying that soap.* — *~ing* *n* [U]

brain-wave /'breɪnweɪv/ *n* 1 infml || also **brainstorm** AmE a sudden clever idea: *I've just had a brainwave. Here's what we should do!* 2 [usu. pl.] tech an electrical force that is produced by the brain and can be measured

brain-y /'breɪni/ *adj* infml clever; INTELLIGENT —see CLEVER (USAGE) — *~iness* *n* [U]

braise /breɪz/ *v* [T] to cook (meat or vegetables) slowly in fat and a little liquid in a covered dish: *braised celery* — see COOK (USAGE)

braising steak /' · · / *n* [U] cow meat that is cheaper and lower in quality than steak, usu. used in small pieces and cooked in liquid to make it tender

brake¹ /breɪk/ *n* an apparatus for reducing movement of a vehicle and bringing it to a stop, esp. by means of pressure on the wheels: *emergency brakes | to step hard on the brake | (fig.) The rise in interest rates acted as a brake on expenditure.* —see pictures at BICYCLE and CAR, and see also DISC BRAKES

brake² *v* [I;T] to (cause to) slow or stop by using a brake: *She braked suddenly to avoid the dog.*

brake³ *n* an area of rough or wet land with many low-growing wild bushes and plants

brake light /' · · / *n* a usu. red light at the back of a vehicle, which lights up when the driver presses the brake

brake shoe /' · · / *n* either of a pair of curved plates next to the wheel of a vehicle that may be pressed against it to stop it or slow it down

bram-ble /'bræmbəl/ *n* a common wild prickly bush of the rose family, esp. the wild BLACKBERRY

Bram-ley /'bræmli/ *n* a type of green apple with a firm, juicy flesh, used for cooking

bran /bræn/ *n* [U] the crushed skin of wheat and other grain separated from the flour. It is believed that bran is healthy, because it contains a lot of FIBRE, and some people like to add it to their breakfast CEREAL.

branch¹ /brɑ:ntʃ||bræntʃ/ *n* 1 an armlike stem growing from the trunk of a tree or from another such stem: *monkeys swinging from the branches | an overhanging branch* 2 [(of)] a separate and usu. less important part of something larger: *a branch of a river | a branch line on a railway network* 3 [(of)] a part or division of a large organization, group, area of knowledge, etc.: *Psychiatry is a branch of medicine. | The bank has branches all over the country. | He's the chairman of the local branch of the union.*

branch² *v* [I] to form or become divided into branches: *Turn right where the road branches.*

branch off *phr* *v* [I (from)] to leave a main road, an established course of action, etc.: *They branched off from the main road and turned down a country lane.*

branch out *phr* *v* [I (into)] to add to the range of one's interests or activities: *The bookshop has decided to branch out into selling records and tapes.*

brand¹ /brænd/ *n* 1 [(of)] a class of goods which is the product of a particular company or producer: *What is your favourite brand of cigarettes? | The brand name of this soap is "Flower". | This type of coffee is the brand leader.* (=the brand that is sold in the largest quantities) |

(fig.) *He has his own brand* (=special kind) of *humour*. —see **MAKE** (USAGE) **2** a mark made, esp. by burning, usu. to show the owner of something: *These cattle have my brand on them.* **3** *lit* a piece of burnt or burning wood **4** *poet* a sword

brand² *v* [T] **1** to mark (something) by or as if by burning, esp. to show who owns it: *The cattle are branded with the farmer's initials.* | (fig.) *His unhappy childhood has branded him for life.* (=had a lasting effect on his character) **2** [(as)] to give a lasting bad name to; **STIGMATIZE**: *It's unfair to brand all football supporters as troublemakers.* [+obj+n] *The press branded him a liar.*

brandish /'brændɪʃ/ *v* [T] to shake or wave (something, esp. a weapon) about, often in a threatening way: *He brandished a newspaper at me and said, "Have you seen the news?"*

brand name /'brænd n/ *n* a **TRADE NAME**

brand-new /'brændnju/ *adj* new and completely unused: *Be careful with that record — it's brand-new!* | *a brand-new car*

Bran-do /'brændəʊ/, **Mar-lon** /'mɑːrlən/ (1924–) an American actor whose films include *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *On the Waterfront*, and *The Godfather* — see picture at **THE GODFATHER**

Brands Hatch /'brænds hætʃ/ a motor-racing **CIRCUIT** (1) in Kent, England

Brandt /brænt/, **Wil-ly** /'vɪli/ (1913–) a West German politician, and Chancellor from 1969 to 1974

brandy /'brændi/ *n* [C;U] (a glass of) a strong alcoholic drink made from wine, also called **COGNAC** — see picture at **GLASS**

brandy butter /'brændi bʊtə/ *n* [U] a sweet mixture of butter, sugar, and brandy, usu. eaten with **CHRISTMAS PUDDING** or **MINCE PIES**

brandy snap /'brændi snæp/ *n* a sweet, thin **BISCUIT** in the shape of a tube, sometimes filled with cream

Bran-son /'brænsən/, **Richard** (1950–) an English **ENTREPRENEUR** famous first for his record company, **Virgin**, and later for his international **AIRLINE**

Bran-ston Pick-le /'brænstən 'pɪkəl/ *n* [U] *tdmk* a popular type of **CHUTNEY** made by Crosse & Blackwell; there are different **FLAVOURS** of Branston Pickle

bran tub /'bræntʊb/ *n* *BrE* a **TUB** (=large round open container) filled with bran and containing small presents. Children pay a small amount of money and can then put their hand into the bran tub to find a surprise present.

Braque /bræk/, **Georges** /ʒɔːʒ/ (1882–1963) a French painter who worked with Picasso and was one of those who started the movement known as **CUBISM**

brash /bræʃ/ *adj derog* **1** showing a disrespectful or showy self-confidence: *a loud, brash young man* | *The new part of the city, with its brash and vulgar buildings* **2** hasty and too confident, esp. from lack of experience; **RASH** — *~ly adv* — *~ness n* [U]

Bra-sil-i-a /brə'zɪliə/ the capital city of Brazil

brass /bræz/ *n* **1** [U] a very hard bright yellow metal, a mixture of **COPPER** and **ZINC** **2** [the+sing./pl. v] (the players of) the set of musical instruments in an **ORCHESTRA** or band that are made of brass and are played by blowing: *The brass is/are too loud.* —compare **WOODWIND** **3** [C] (esp. in Britain) a flat piece of brass with an **ENGRAVING** on it, fixed to the floor or wall of a church in memory of a dead person: *to go brass rubbing* (=to make copies of brasses with paper and **CRAYONS**) **4** [U] *infml* unashamed self-confidence; **NERVE**: *How did she have the brass to do that?* **5** [U] *sl*, esp. *NEngE* money **6** [the+sing./pl.v] *AmE infml* for **TOP BRASS** **7** *get down to brass tacks infml* to come to the important facts or business

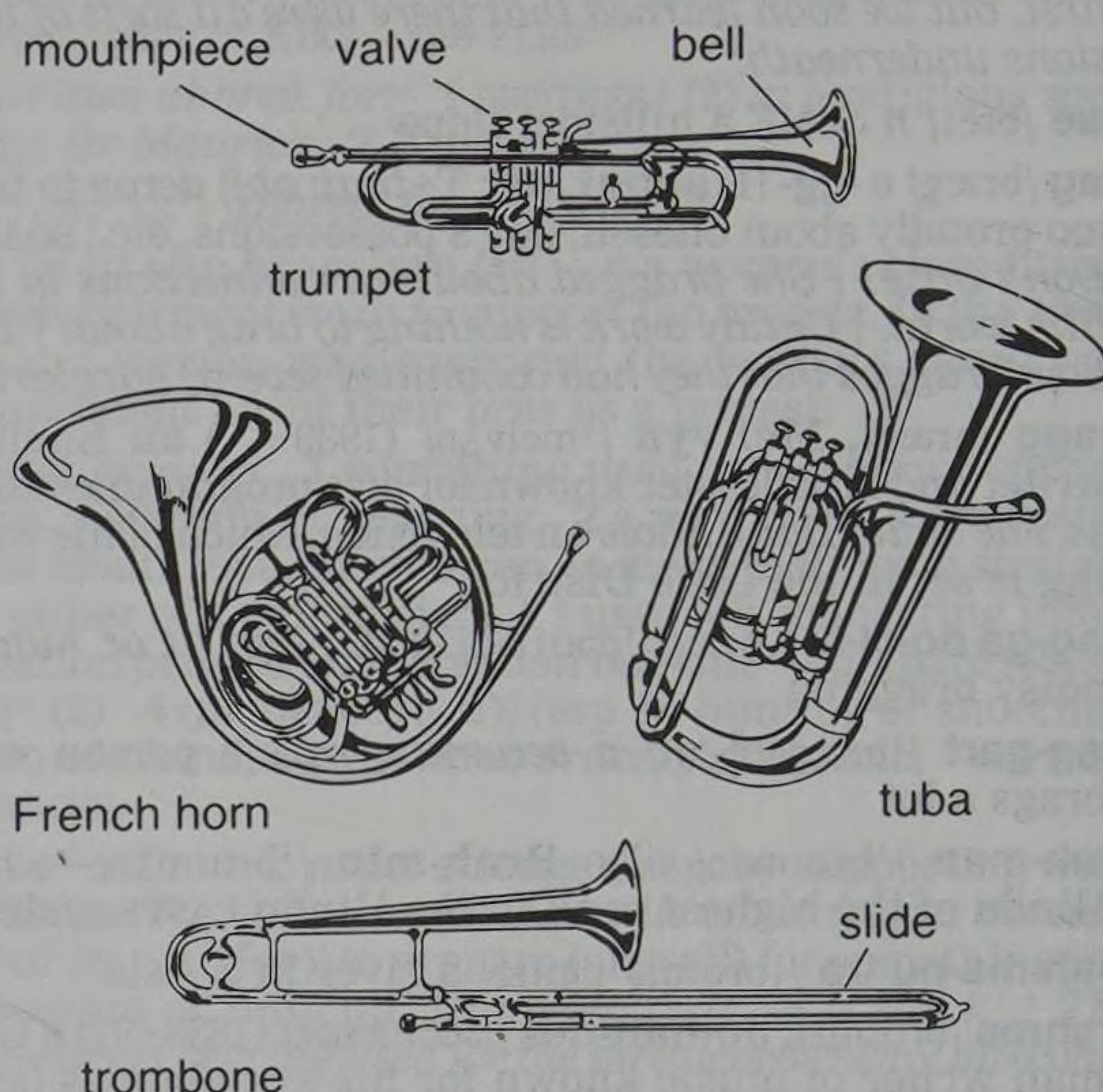
brass band /'bræsbænd/ *n* a band consisting mostly of brass musical instruments. When British people think of brass bands, they often think of the industrial towns of the North of England, where brass bands are very popular. In the US, brass bands are popular with older people, and are often part of street processions.

brassed off /'bræstɒf/ *adj* [F (with)] *BrE sl* tired and annoyed; **FED UP**

bras-se-rie /'bræsəri/ *n* *Fr, BrE* a restaurant, esp. one that is informal and fairly cheap, and serves French food — see **RESTAURANT** (**CULTURAL NOTE**)

brass hat /'bræshæt/ *n sl* a military officer of high rank

bras-si-ere /'bræziə/ *n fml* a **BRA**



brass knuck-les /'bræsknʌklz/ *n* [P] *AmE* for **KNUCKLE-DUSTER**

brass-mon-key /'bræsmɒŋki/ *adj infml* (of weather) very cold (from the *taboo sl* expression "cold enough to freeze the balls off a brass monkey")

Brass-o /'bræksəʊ/ *n* [U] *tdmk* a type of polish made by Reckitt & Colman Ltd. and used for polishing **BRASS**

brass tacks /'bræstæks/ *n* *get down to brass tacks infml* to come to the really important facts or business

brass-y /'bræsi/ *adj* **1** like brass in colour **2** like brass musical instruments in sound **3** (*usu. derog*, esp. of a woman) loud and self-confident in manner

brat /bræt/ *n derog* a child, esp. a bad-mannered one

brat-pack /'brætpæk/ *n* [the] a group of successful and fashionable young actors, writers, performers, etc.: *a member of the Hollywood bratpack* | *the literary bratpack*

brat-wurst /'brætwɜːst/ *n* [U] *Ger* a **SAUSAGE** made with **PORK**, for cooking in hot oil

Braun /brɔːn/, **Carol Moseley** (1947–) a **CIVIL SERVANT** who, in 1992, became the first black woman to be elected to the US Senate, representing Illinois

Braun, E.-va /'eɪvə/ (1910–45) a German Nazi who married Adolf Hitler in 1945 and then killed herself at the same time as he did

bra-va-do /brə'vɑːdəʊ/ *n* [U] the act of intentionally showing one's courage or confidence, esp. in a way that is unnecessarily dangerous: *It was an act of sheer bravado.*

brave¹ /breɪv/ *adj* **1** courageous, fearless, and ready to suffer danger or pain: *brave soldiers* | *a brave attempt to recapture the city from the enemy* | *Be brave — we'll soon have your tooth out.* | *It was very brave of you to stand up and speak in front of all those people.* [also *n*, the+P] *Today we remember the brave who died in the last war.* **2** [A] *old use fine; EXCELLENT*: *a brave new world* **3** **brave new world** a phrase from *The Tempest* by Shakespeare and the title of a **NOVEL** by Aldous Huxley — *~ly adv* — *~ry* /'breɪvəri/ *n* [U]: *bravery in the face of terrible danger*

brave² *v* [T] to face or risk facing (danger, pain, or trouble) without showing fear: *He braved his parents' displeasure by marrying her.* | *We decided to brave the storm and try to walk home.*

brave³ *n* a young Native American **WARRIOR** (=fighting man)

Brave New World /'breɪnəvɜːld/ a book written in 1932 by Aldous Huxley which imagined a future where humans are produced and controlled to serve society without freedom of their own. The phrase is now used to describe any real or imaginary society that is similar to this.

bra-vo /'brɑːvəʊ, brɑː'vəʊ/ *interj*, *n -vos* (a shout of joy because someone, esp. a performer, has done well)

bra-vu-ra /brə'vjuərə/ *n* [U] **1** a show of great skill in performing **2** a show of great courage or daring

brawl /brɔːl/ *n* a noisy quarrel or fight, esp. one in which several people take part, and often in a public place — *brawl v* [I] — *~er n*

brawn /brɔ:n/ *n* [U] **1** human muscle; MUSCULAR strength: *He's got more brawn than brains.* (=he's strong, but not very clever) **2** *BrE* || **headcheese** *AmE*— (pieces of) meat from the head of a pig, boiled and pressed in a pot with jelly

brawn-y /'brɔ:ni/ *adj* strong; MUSCULAR: *brawny arms* —**iness** *n* [U]

bray /breɪ/ *v* [I] to make the sound that a DONKEY makes: (fig.) *He brayed with laughter.* —**bray** *n*

brazen¹ /'breɪzən/ *adj* **1** without shame; IMMODEST: *a brazen lie* | *brazen cheek* | *a brazen hussy* **2** [A] *lit* of or like brass, esp. in producing a hard loud sound as brass does when struck —**ly** *adv*

brazen² *v* **brazen it out** to face trouble or blame with unashamed confidence, as if one has done nothing wrong

bra-zi-er /'breɪziəʳ||-zər/ *n* a container for burning coals

Bra-zil¹ /brə'zɪl/ a country in E South America, the largest Latin American country; capital Brasilia; population 147,404,000 (1989) —**ian** *n, adj*

Brazil², **An-ge-la** /'ændʒɪlə/ (1868–1947) an English writer of stories about schoolgirl life

Brazil nut /'brɪzəl/ *n* **1** a S American tree whose seeds are eaten as nuts **2** the nut of this tree —see picture at NUT

Braz-za-ville /'bræzəvɪl/ the capital city of the Republic of the Congo, in Africa

breach¹ /brɪtʃ/ *n* **1** [C;U (of)] an act of breaking, disobeying, or not fulfilling a law, promise, or duty: *This new decision represents a breach of our original agreement.* | *She was sued for breach of contract.* | *These working practices are in breach of section 22 of the safety regulations.* | *He was arrested for a breach of the peace.* (=fighting in public) | *His breach of confidence* (=telling of secrets) *was condemned by his colleagues.* **2** [C] an opening, esp. one made in a wall by attackers: *a breach in the castle walls* | (fig.) *When I was ill she stepped into/threw herself into the breach and did my work as well as her own.* | (fig.) *The incident caused an irreparable breach between the two countries.* (=broke their friendship) **3** **once more unto the breach dear friends, once more** *quote* a phrase from the play *Henry V* by Shakespeare, used by the king when encouraging his soldiers to fight again —see colour picture on page 1146

breach² *v* [T] **1** to break an opening in **2** to break (a promise, agreement, etc.): *to breach one's contract*

bread /bred/ *n* [U] **1** a common food made of baked flour: *a loaf of bread* | *bread and butter* | *jam/cheese* (=bread spread with butter/JAM/cheese) | *white/brown/wholemeal bread* **2** food considered as a means of staying alive: *to earn one's (daily) bread as a labourer* **3** *old-fash sl* money **4** **bread and butter** *infml* one's way of earning money to live on; LIVELIHOOD: *I don't write just for fun — it's my bread and butter.* —see also BREAD-AND-BUTTER **5** **take the bread out of someone's mouth** *infml* to make it impossible for someone to earn money, esp. by taking their work away **6** **Man cannot live by bread alone** *saying from the Bible* the needs of a person's spirit must be looked after as well as those of their body. The phrase is now often used in a humorous way: *I know we're trying to save money, but man cannot live by baked beans alone.* —see also FRENCH BREAD, SLICED BREAD, **break bread with** (BREAK¹ (15)), **know which side one's bread is buttered** (KNOW¹)

bread-and-but-ter /'brɛd, bʌtə/ *adj* [A] **1** concerned with the things that are necessary for life: *bread-and-butter political issues such as jobs and housing* **2** sent as thanks for being treated well as someone's guest (esp. in the phrase *a bread-and-butter letter*)

bread-and-but-ter pud-ding /'brɛd, bʌtə, 'pʌdɪŋ/ *n* [U] a sweet dish made from bread, dried fruit, milk, and eggs, baked in an OVEN. Bread-and-butter pudding is an old-fashioned British DESSERT.

bread-bas-ket /'brɛd, bɑ:skɪt||-bæ-/ *n* [(the)] **1** an important area for grain production: *The Ukraine is the breadbasket of the Soviet Union.* **2** *old-fash sl* the stomach: *Hit him in the breadbasket, Maxie!*

bread bin /'brɛd bɪn/ *BrE* || **bread box** *AmE* *n* a container for keeping bread in, so that it stays fresh

bread-board /'brɛdbɔ:d||-bɔ:rd/ *n* a wooden board on which to cut a loaf of bread into SLICES (=thin pieces) —see picture at KITCHEN

bread-crumb /'bredkrʌm/ *n* [*usu. pl.*] a very small bit of bread: *Coat the fish with breadcrumbs, then fry it in a little oil.*

bread-fruit /'bredfru:t/ *n* [C;U] (a tropical tree that bears) a round fruit that looks and feels like bread when baked

bread-line /'bredlaɪn/ *n* **on the breadline** extremely poor

bread sauce /'brɛd, 'sɔ:s/ *n* *BrE* [U] a mixture of milk, bread, onion, and SPICES, *usu.* served with chicken or TURKEY

breadth /bredθ, bretθ/ *n* **1** [C;U] *fml* (the) distance from one side of something to the other; width: *What is the breadth of this river?* | *Its breadth is 16 metres.* | *It is 16 metres in breadth.* —compare LENGTH (1) **2** [U] the fact or quality of including many things or people; wide range; SCOPE: *His book shows the great breadth of his learning.* | *It is important to remember the breadth of their support in the country.* **3** [U] willingness to consider opinions, customs, etc. that are different from one's own; openness: *breadth of mind/opinions*

breadth-ways /'brɛdθweɪz, 'bretθ-/ also **breadth-wise** /-weɪz/— *adj, adv* in the direction of the breadth; with the broad side nearest the viewer: *files stored breadth-ways on a shelf*

bread-win-ner /'brɛd, wɪnəʳ/ *n* a person in a family whose wages provide what the family needs to live on: *My mother was the breadwinner in our family.* | *They both work, but he is the main breadwinner* (=he earns the most money).

break¹ /breɪk/ *v* **broke** /brəʊk/, **broken** /'brəʊkən/ **1** [I;T] to (cause to) separate into parts suddenly or violently, but not by cutting or tearing: *I dropped my cup and it broke.* | *The rope broke when they were climbing it.* | *Stones hit the window and it broke into several pieces.* | *Someone has broken this chair.* | *He has broken his leg/broken a bone in his leg.* | *to break a branch off a tree* | *A large piece of ice broke away from the main mass.* | *You'll break your neck* (=kill yourself by falling, etc.) *if you aren't careful!* | *The floor was covered in bits of broken glass.* **2** [I;T] to (cause to) become unusable by damage to one or more parts: *I broke my watch when I fell over.* | *The typewriter is broken and will have to be repaired.* **3** [T] to split into smaller units; divide: *to break a £10 note* **4** [I] (of a wave) to curl over and fall apart as it comes in to the shore: *waves breaking on the beach/against the rocks* **5** [I+adj/adv/prep;T] to force a way into, out of, or through, esp. with sudden violence: *The invaders broke through the enemy line.* | *With a great effort, the prisoner broke loose/broke free and ran off.* | *The river broke its banks and flooded the city.* | *a plane that can break the sound barrier* **6** [T] to make an opening in the surface of: *The dog scratched me but didn't break the skin.* | *to break the soil* **7** [I;T] to (cause to) come to an end: *A sudden cry broke the silence.* | *to break an electric circuit* | *The cold weather broke at the end of March.* | *We hope that this new offer will break the deadlock.* | *The visit was broken short because there was talk of war.* **8** [I;T] to interrupt (an activity): *We broke our journey to Rome at Venice.* | *The bushes will break his fall.* | *Let's break for lunch and start again afterwards.* | *The children started shouting and broke my train of thought.* **9** [I;T] to (cause to) fail, be destroyed, or suffer a complete loss of effectiveness, often as a result of a long process: *After years of working too hard, his health finally broke.* | *The prolonged bombardment broke the enemy's spirit/resistance.* | *The government brought in the army to break the strike.* | *I'm trying to break the smoking habit.* | *The prisoner may break under continuous questioning.* | *This scandal could break him politically.* | *The separation will make or break their relationship.* **10** [I;T] to win (a game) in tennis from the opponent who began it **11** [T] to fail to fulfil (an agreement), keep (a promise), or obey (a law); not act in accordance with: *to break the law/the rules/a promise* | *He has broken his word.* (=not kept his promise) | *She had to break an appointment with the lawyer to take her son to hospital.* **12** [T] to do better than: *The runner broke the world record for the mile.* —see also RECORD-BREAKING **13** [I;T] to (cause to) come suddenly into being or notice: *The birds begin to sing as day breaks.* | *The storm broke.* | *The news broke.* | *Break the news to him gently.* **14** [T] to discover the secret of: *We finally broke the enemy's code.* **15** [I] (of the voice) to change suddenly in level, loudness, etc.: *His voice broke when he was 15 years old.* | *a voice breaking with emotion* **16** **break bread with pomp** to eat a meal with **17** **break**

camp to pack up tents and other equipment and leave a camp **18 break cover** (of an animal) to run out from a hiding place **19 break new/fresh ground** to do something new, esp. to make new discoveries **20 break one's back** || *also break one's ass* *AmE*— to work very hard or too hard; make every possible effort: *They were breaking their backs trying to keep the deadline.* **21 break someone's heart** to make someone extremely sad: *It breaks my heart to see him working so hard for nothing.* | *She broke her father's heart by marrying John.* —see also **HEARTBREAKING**, **HEARTBROKEN** **22 break step** to stop marching together with a regular beat **23 break the back of infml** finish the main or the worst part of: *If we start early, we can break the back of the journey before it gets hot.* **24 break the bank: a** to win all the money, e.g. at a game of cards **b infml** to take all one's money: *Come on; it only costs £5 — that won't break the bank!* **25 break the ice infml** to remove feelings of awkwardness or nervousness, esp. between people who do not know each other, e.g. at the beginning of a party **26 break wind euph** to let out gases from the bowels. —see also **keep/break ranks** (**RANK**¹)

▷ **USAGE** Compare **break**, **tear**, **cut**, **smash**, **crack**, and **burst**. You cannot **break** soft things like cloth or paper, but you can **tear** them, which means “pull apart so as to leave rough edges”, or **cut** them, which means “divide by using a sharp edge”: *He tore the letter into pieces.* | *I cut the cake with a knife.* Things made of glass or **CHINA** may **break** (or **be/get broken**) or **smash**, which means “break suddenly into small pieces”: *The dish smashed on the floor.* **Crack** means “break without the parts becoming separated”: *You've cracked the window, but luckily you haven't broken it.* **Burst** means “break suddenly by pressure from inside”: *She blew up the paper bag until it burst.* ◁

break away phr v [I (from)] **1** to escape, esp. with a sudden violent effort: *The prisoner broke away from the two policemen who were holding him.* **2** to end one's connection with a group, organization, way of thinking, etc.: *This extremist faction broke away from the main party in 1979.* | *an innovative musician who broke away from the classical tradition* —see also **BREAKAWAY**

break down phr v **1** [T] (**break** sthg. ↔ **down**) to destroy, knock to the ground, or reduce to pieces: *The police broke the door down.* | *The old cars were broken down for their metal and parts.* **2** [I;T] (**=break** sthg. ↔ **down**) to (cause to) be defeated, or lose effectiveness: *I tried to break down her opposition to our plan.* | *His resistance broke down.* | *This agreement will break down the barriers to free trade.* **3** [I] (esp. of machinery) to stop working; fail: *The car broke down.* **4** [I] to come to an unsuccessful end: *The peace talks broke down without any agreement being reached.* **5** [I] to lose control of one's feelings: *Peter broke down and wept when his mother died.* **6** [I;T] (**=break** sthg. ↔ **down**) to (cause to) separate into different kinds or divide into types: *Chemicals in the body break our food down into useful substances.* | *The figures must be broken down into several categories.* —see also **BREAKDOWN**

break even phr v [I] to make neither a loss nor a profit in doing business —see also **BREAKEVEN**

break in phr v **1** [I] to enter a building by force: *They broke in through an upstairs window and stole some jewellery.* —see also **BREAK-IN** **2** [I (on, upon)] to interrupt: *She broke in with some suggestions of her own.* | *The sudden banging at the door broke in on the silence/on my thoughts.* **3** [T] (**break** sthg./sbdy. ↔ **in**) to make (a person or animal) used to something new: *Young horses have to be broken in.* (=taught to obey) | *A week in the new office should be enough to break you in.* **4** [T] (**break** sthg. ↔ **in**) to wear (new shoes or boots) to make them lose their stiffness and become comfortable

break into sthg. phr v [T] **1** to enter by force: *to break into a house and commit a burglary* **2** to begin suddenly: *to break into song/laughter/cheers* | *The horse broke into a gallop.* **3** to use part of, unwillingly: *We'll have to break into our savings.*

break sbdy. of sthg. phr v [T] to cure of (a bad habit): *Doctors are trying to break him of his dependence on the drug.*

break off phr v [I;T] (**=break** sthg. ↔ **off**) **1** to (cause to) end, esp. suddenly: *The two countries have broken off diplomatic relations (with each other).* | *The talks broke off without any solution being reached.* | *We broke off*

(work) for a cup of coffee. **2** to (cause to) become separated from the main part by breaking or being broken: *A branch broke off (the tree) in the wind.* | *I broke off a piece of chocolate and gave it to the little boy.*

break out phr v [I] **1** (of an undesirable condition) to begin suddenly and often violently: *War/Fighting/Panic/A fire broke out.* **2** [(in)] to suddenly become covered (esp. with spots on the skin): *The allergy caused him to break out in spots/a rash.* | *I broke out in a cold sweat when I realized there was a burglar downstairs.* **3** [(of)] to escape (from): *to break out of prison* —see also **BREAKOUT**, **OUTBREAK**

break through phr v **1** [I;T] (**=break** through sthg.) to force a way through: *At last sun broke through (the clouds).* | *to break through the enemy's defences* **2** [I] to make a new advance or discovery, esp. after dealing successfully with problems and difficulties: *Scientists hope to break through soon in their search for a cure for this type of cancer.* —see also **BREAKTHROUGH**

break up phr v **1** [I;T] (**=break** sthg. ↔ **up**) to (cause to) become separated into smaller pieces: *The frost will break up the soil.* | *The ship broke up on the rocks.* | *We are putting some illustrations in the book in order to break up the text.* **2** [I;T] (**=break** sthg. ↔ **up**) to come or bring to an end, esp. by separating: *Their marriage broke up.* | *The police broke up the fight.* | *The conference broke up without reaching any agreement.* **3** [I] to stop being together; separate or go in different directions: *What will happen to the children if Jim and Mary break up?* | *The crowd broke up.* **4** [I] *BrE* (of a school or pupil) to begin the holidays: *When does your school break up?* | *We break up on Tuesday.* **5** [T] (**break** sbdy. ↔ **up**) *AmE* to amuse greatly: *His account of the meeting really broke me up.* —see also **BREAKUP**

break with sbdy./sthg. phr v [T] to end a friendship or connection with: *to break with one's former friends/with old ideas*

break² n **1** an act of breaking or a condition produced (as if) by breaking: *a break in the clouds* | *a break in an electrical circuit* | *The break with her husband was painful, but she thought it was for the best.* | *You'll have to make the break sometime if you want to get away from this town.* **2** a pause for rest between activities: *a coffee break* | *to take/have a weekend break* | *We've worked 24 hours without a break.* (=continuously) **3** [(from, in, with)] a change from the usual pattern or custom: *The queen's decision to send her children to ordinary schools was a break from/with tradition.* | *a break in the weather* **4** *infml* a chance (esp. to make things better); piece of good luck: *Give him a break and he'll succeed.* | *He's had a good year with several big/lucky breaks.* **5** an escape, esp. from prison **6** (in cricket) a change of direction of the ball on first hitting the ground **7** (in the game of **BIL- LIARDS**) the number of points made by one player during one turn at hitting the balls **8** (in tennis) a case of winning a game from the opponent who began it: *She needs a break of serve now.* | *two break points* **9** **break of day** *lit* for **DAYBREAK** **10** **make a break for it** *infml* to try to escape by running away

break-age /'breɪkɪdʒ/ *n* [C;U] **1** (the causing of) a broken place, part, or object: *a breakage in the gas pipes* **2** (the cost of) damage caused by breaking things: *Any breakages will be paid for by the company that is transporting the goods.*

break-a-way /'breɪkəweɪ/ *n* **1** a person or thing that breaks away **2** an act or example of breaking away (e.g. from a group or custom) —see also **BREAK AWAY** —**breakaway** *adj* [A]: *A breakaway faction within the movement has formed a new terrorist group.* | *breakaway republics seeking independence from the Soviet Union*

break-dance /'breɪkdɑːns||-dæns/ *v* [I] to perform a style of dancing to **ROCK** music, in which the dancers often spin round on their heads or shoulders or perform other difficult, **ACROBATIC** moves **breakdancing** *n* **break-dancer** *n*

break-down /'breɪkdaʊn/ *n* **1** a sudden failure in operation or effectiveness: *Our car had a breakdown on the road.* | *a breakdown of talks between the staff and the management* | *a complete breakdown of law and order* **2** [(of)] a division by types or into smaller groups, esp. for the purpose of explanation: *I'd like a breakdown of these figures, please.* —see also **BREAK DOWN**, **NERVOUS BREAKDOWN**

- breakdown truck** /'brɪkdaʊn/ also **breakdown lor-ry** /'brɪkdaʊn lɒr-ri/ *BrE* || **towtruck** *AmE*— *n* a TRUCK fitted with apparatus for lifting and pulling along motor vehicles which have broken down —see picture at TRUCK
- break-er** /'breɪkə/ *n* **1** a large wave with a white top that rolls onto the shore **2** a user of a CB radio **3 -breaker** a person or thing that breaks something: *law-breakers*
- break-even** /'breɪk'ɪvən/ *n* [U] a level of business activity at which a company makes neither a loss nor a profit: *After two difficult years, the company hopes to reach breakeven this year, and to be in profit next year.* —see also BREAK even
- break-fast** /'breɪkfəst/ *n* [C;U] the first meal of the day: *We usually have breakfast at 7 o'clock.* | *It happened at/during breakfast.* | *She likes eggs for breakfast.* | *a working breakfast* (=at which business is talked about) —see also COOKED BREAKFAST, DOG'S BREAKFAST, ENGLISH BREAKFAST, WEDDING BREAKFAST —**breakfast** *v* [I (on)] : *We breakfasted early (on eggs and coffee).*
- breakfast ce-re-al** /'brɪk'fæst sɪ'ri:əl/ *n* [C;U] CEREAL (2)
- breakfast tel-e-vi-sion** /'brɪk'fæst tel'ɪvɪʒən/ *n* [U] television programmes which are broadcast in the early part of the morning, usu. a mixture of news, sport, and conversation
- break-in** /'breɪkɪn/ *n* the entering of a building illegally and by force: *a break-in at the bank* —see also BREAK in
- breaking and en-ter-ing** /'breɪkɪŋ ənd ɪn'teərɪŋ/ *n* [U] the crime of entering a house by force
- break-neck** /'breɪknek/ *adj* [A] very fast and dangerous: *driving at breakneck speed*
- break-out** /'breɪkaʊt/ *n* a violent or forceful escape from an enclosed space or a difficult situation, esp. an escape from prison, usu. by several prisoners at once —see also BREAK out
- break-through** /'breɪkθruː/ *n* (the making of) an important advance or discovery, often after earlier failures: *a major breakthrough in the treatment of cancer* | *The negotiators have achieved/made a dramatic breakthrough in the arms control talks.* —see also BREAK through
- break-up** /'breɪkʌp/ [(of) usu. sing.] *n* **1** a coming to an end, esp. of a relationship or association: *the breakup of a marriage/of an alliance* **2** a division into smaller parts: *the breakup of the large farms* —see also BREAK up, BREAKDOWN
- break-wa-ter** /'breɪk'wɔːtə/ || -wɔː-, -waː-/ *n* a thick wall built out into the sea to lessen the force of the waves
- bream** /briːm/ *n* **bream** or **breams** a kind of freshwater fish, or a similar saltwater fish (**sea bream**)
- Bream, Ju-li-an** /'dʒuːliən/ (1933–) an English musician known for his GUITAR and LUTE playing
- breast**¹ /brest/ *n* **1** either of the two parts of a woman's body that produce milk: *a baby at its mother's breast/at the breast* | *a breast cancer screening service* —compare CHEST (1) **2** the upper front part of the body between the neck and the stomach, esp. in birds or animals: *a bird with an orange breast* | *the breast pocket of a jacket* | *They had chicken breasts for lunch.* —see picture at BIRD **3** *lit* the part of the body where the feelings are supposed to be: *a troubled breast* —compare BOSOM (2), HEART (2) **4** **make a clean breast of** to tell the whole truth about (something bad that one has done); admit to: *His guilty conscience forced him to make a clean breast of everything.* —see also **beat one's breast** (BEAT¹ (11))
- breast**² *v* [T] *fml* or *lit* to meet and push aside with one's chest: *The winner of the race breasted the tape.* | (fig.) *The ship breasted the waves.*
- breast-bone** /'brestbəʊn/ also **sternum** *med*— *n* the upright bone in the front of the chest, to which the top seven pairs of RIBS are connected —see picture at SKELETON
- breast-feed** /'brɪk'fed/ *v* -fed /fed/ [I;T] (of a woman) to feed (a baby) with milk from the breast, not from a bottle: *breast-fed babies* —compare NURSE² (3), SUCKLE
- breast-plate** /'brestpleɪt/ *n* a piece of armour worn to protect the chest
- breast pock-et** /'brɪk'pɒkət/ *n* an outside pocket on a shirt or JACKET over the breast, usu. used for a handkerchief or pens
- breast-stroke** /'brest-strəʊk/ *n* [(the) S;U] a way of swimming on one's front, by pushing the arms in front of the head through the water while drawing the knees forwards and outwards and then sweeping them back while kicking backwards and outwards
- breast-work** /'brestwɜːk||-wɜːrk/ *n* a defensive earth wall, usu. built as high as a man's chest
- breath** /breθ/ *n* **1** [U] air taken into and breathed out of the lungs: *I was out of breath/short of breath after running for the bus.* | *She paused for a few moments to get her breath (back).* | *Tooth decay often causes bad breath.* (=breath that smells bad) | *He fiercely criticized her speech, scarcely even pausing for breath/to draw breath between successive points.* | *Remember to hold your breath* (=take no air in) *when you dive into the water.* | (fig.) *All Europe held its breath* (=waited anxiously) *to see who would win the election.* | (infml) *He said he'd come as soon as he could, but he's so unreliable, I shouldn't hold your breath.* | (lit) *The new leader vowed to fight for the rights of his people as long as he had breath.* (=until he died) **2** [C] a single act of breathing air in and out once: *He took a deep breath and then dived into the water.* | (fig.) *Let's go out for a breath of (fresh) air.* | *She claimed not to like the place, but in the next breath* (=the next moment) *said she was taking her holiday there.* | *He cursed them with his last/dying breath.* (=at the last moment of his life) **3** [S+of] a slight sign of (something); SUGGESTION: *There's a breath of spring in the air today.* | *the breath of scandal* **4** **take someone's 'breath away** to make someone unable to speak from surprise, pleasure, or shock: *His sheer rudeness took my breath away.* —see also BREATH-taking **5** **under one's breath** in a low voice or a whisper —see also **bated breath** (BATED), **catch one's breath** (CATCH¹), **waste one's breath** (WASTE²)
- breath-a-lyse** *BrE* || -lyze *AmE* /'breθəl-aɪz/ *v* [T] *infml* to test (a driver) with a breathalyser
- breath-a-lys-er** *BrE* || **Breathalyzer** *AmE* tdmk /'breθəl-aɪzə/ ||, also **drunkometer** *AmE* *infml* —*n* an apparatus used by the police to measure the amount of alcohol that the driver of a car has drunk. In many countries it is illegal to drive after you have drunk more than a legal limit of alcohol.
- breathe** /briːð/ *v* **1** [I;T (IN, OUT)] to take (air, gas, etc.) into the lungs and send it out again: *Fish cannot breathe out of water.* | *The doctor told me to breathe in deeply* (=take air in) *and then breathe out.* | *He became ill after breathing (in) coal dust for many years.* | *They walked through the forest breathing (in) the scent of pines.* | *She moved to another seat to get away from the man opposite, who was breathing alcohol/tobacco fumes all over her.* | (lit) *I'll remember this day as long as I breathe.* (=until I die) | *breathing apparatus/equipment for deep sea divers* **2** [T] to say softly; whisper: *He breathed words of love into her ear.* | *She breathed a sigh of relief when she heard she had passed the exam.* | *Don't breathe a word of it to anyone.* (=Don't tell anyone about it.) **3** [T (into)] to give or send out as if by breathing: *His enthusiasm breathed new life into the department.* | (fig.) *She really breathes fire when she gets angry!* **4** [I] (of flowers, wine, etc.) to take in air or feel the effects of air: *Open the wine so that it can breathe before we drink it.* | *The shoes have leather soles, so your feet can breathe.* **5** **breathe again** to feel calm after feeling anxious: *He's gone; you can breathe (freely) again.* **6** **breathe down someone's neck** *infml* to keep too close a watch on someone: *I can't work properly with you breathing down my neck all the time.* **7** **breathe one's last** *fml* or *euph* to die —**breathing** *n* [U] —see also **heavy breathing**
- breath-er** /'briːðə/ *n* *infml* a short pause for a rest: *We've been working quite a long time now: let's have/take a breather.* —see also **heavy breather**
- breathing space** /'breɪθɪŋ speɪs/ *n* [S;U] (a) short period when one is free from work, worry, pressure, etc.: *They gave her a breathing space of two weeks before she had to pay back the debt.*
- breath-less** /'breθləs/ *adj* **1** breathing heavily or with difficulty: *By the time I got to the top I was completely breathless.* **2** causing one to stop breathing or breathe with difficulty: *a breathless silence during the exciting last game of the tennis match* | *breathless haste/hurry* **3** with no wind: *a hot and breathless afternoon* — ~ **ly** *adv* — ~ **ness** *n* [U]
- breath-tak-ing** /'breθ,tɜːkɪŋ/ *adj* **1** very exciting: *a breathtaking finish to the race* **2** very surprising or

brick-yard /'brɪkjɑːd||-jɑːrd/ also **brick-field** /'brɪkfiːld/ BrE— *n* a place where bricks are made

brid-al /'braɪdl/ *adj* of a bride or the marriage ceremony: *a bridal dress* | *the bridal couple*

bride /braɪd/ *n* a woman about to be married, just married, or recently married: *The bride wore a beautiful white dress.* | *his bride of one year* (=whom he married one year ago) —see also extra information on page 1406

bride-groom /'braɪdgruːm, -gruːm/ also **groom**— *n* a man about to be married, or just married —see also extra information on page 1406

Brides-head Re-vis-it-ed /,braɪdʒhed rɪː'vɪzɪtɪd/ a book by Evelyn Waugh, written in 1945, which was filmed for television in 1980. The story of a rich family in war-time based in a large country house suggested a pleasant idea of the past to many people in Britain.

brides-maid /'braɪdzmeɪd/ *n* **1** an unmarried girl who helps the bride at a marriage ceremony —compare BEST MAN, FLOWER GIRL, MATRON OF HONOUR, PAGEBOY and see also extra information on page 1406 **2 be always the bridesmaid and never the bride** to be someone who is never the centre of attention and never wins anything

bride-to-be /,brɪdˌtəʊˈbiː/ *n* **brides-to-be** a woman who is soon going to be a bride

bridge¹ /brɪdʒ/ *n* **1** a structure that carries a road or railway over a valley, river, etc.: *How many bridges are there across the River Thames?* | *the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco* | *a road bridge over a railway line* | (fig.) *The training programme is seen as a bridge between school and work.* **2** the raised part of a ship on which the captain and other officers stand when on duty **3** the bony upper part of the nose, between the eyes **4** the part of a pair of glasses that rests on the bridge of the nose —see picture at GLASSES **5** a small movable part of a stringed musical instrument, used for keeping the strings stretched **6** a small piece of metal for keeping artificial teeth in place, fastened to the natural teeth —see also **build bridges** (BUILD¹), **burn one's bridges** (BURN¹ (12)), **Don't cross your bridges before you come/get to them** (CROSS²), **water under the bridge** (WATER¹)

bridge² *v* [T] to build a bridge across: *to bridge a river* | (fig.) *These tax reforms are an attempt to bridge the gap between the rich and poor.*

bridge³ *n* [U] a card game for four players developed from the game of WHIST: *Make up a four for bridge at Sally's.* | *a bridge club* —see also CONTRACT BRIDGE

bridge-head /'brɪdʒhed/ *n* **1** a strong position far forward in enemy land from which an attack will be made **2** a position well forward, from which further advances can be made: *This discovery will be a bridgehead for further advances in computer science.* —compare BEACHHEAD

bridge-work /'brɪdʒwɜːk||-wɜːrk/ *n* [U] esp. AmE the BRIDGES¹ (6) in a person's mouth

bridging loan /'brɪdʒɪŋˌləʊn/ *n* money lent by a bank for a short time to help a borrower to buy something, esp. a new property, before they have sold something else, esp. an old property

brid-le¹ /'braɪdl/ *n* leather bands put on a horse's head to control its movements —see picture at HORSE

brid-le² *v* **1** [T] to put a bridle on: *to bridle a pony* | (fig.) *Learn to bridle* (=control) *your tongue.* (=to be careful in what you say) —see also UNBRIDLED **2** [I (at)] to express anger or displeasure, sometimes by making a proud upward movement of the head: *I asked her to do it, but she bridled at the suggestion.*

bridle path /'brɪdlˌpæθ/ *n* a path made esp. for horse riding, but not for vehicles

Brie /brɪz/ *n* [U] a soft French cheese

brief¹ /brɪf/ *adj* **1** short, esp. in time: *a brief visit/letter* | *Please be brief* (=say it in a few words) *because I'm in a hurry.* | *The fans only got a brief glimpse of their idol at the airport.* | *His remarks were brief and to the point.* (=short and expressing his meaning exactly) | *a brief swimsuit* (=covering only a small part of the body) **2 in brief** in as few words as possible: *the news in brief* —~ly *adv*: *The President stopped off briefly in London on his way to Geneva.* | *Briefly, I think we should accept their offer.*

brief² *n* **1** a short spoken or written statement giving facts or arguments about a law case **2 esp. BrE** the

instructions about someone's duties: *The new minister's brief is to ensure that the water supply is improved.* **3 BrE hold no brief for** to not support or be in favour of: *I hold no brief for the policies of this government, but on this occasion I think they're right.* —see also BRIEFS

brief³ *v* [T (on)] to give (someone) necessary instructions or information, in order to prepare them for an activity: *to brief astronauts before their mission* | *to brief reporters on the new legislation* | *The President was briefed by his advisers before the interview.* —compare DEBRIEF

brief-case /'brɪfkeɪs/ *n* a flat, often leather case for papers, esp. one that opens at the top. When people think of briefcases, they typically think of businessmen. —compare ATTACHE CASE

Brief En-coun-ter /,brɪfˌɛnˌkʌntər/ a film by David Lean made in 1945, from a play by Noël Coward. It is an English love story, of a housewife and a doctor, who fall in love but then decide to separate. It is remembered esp. for the ROMANTIC scenes in a railway station and is known for its realism and artistic filming. —see colour picture on page 685

brief-ing /'brɪfɪŋ/ *n* [C;U] an act of giving necessary instructions or information: *Before the meeting, let me give you a quick briefing.*

briefs /brɪfs/ *n* [P] UNDERPANTS or KNICKERS. This is the word used esp. by people who make or sell underpants or knickers: *a pair of briefs* | *bikini briefs* —see PAIR (USAGE)

brier, briar /braɪər/ *n* [C;U] a wild bush covered with sharp THORNS, esp. the wild rose bush

Bri-ers /'braɪəz||-ərz/, **Richard** (1934–) an English actor known esp. for his part in the British television COMEDY SERIES of the 1970s, *The Good Life*

brig /brɪɡ/ *n* **1** a ship with two MASTS and large square sails **2 AmE infml** a military prison

brigade /brɪ'geɪd/ *n* [C+sing./pl. v] **1** a part of an army, of about 5000 soldiers **2** an organization formed to carry out certain duties: *the Fire Brigade*

brig-a-dier /,brɪgə'dɪər/ *n* a military rank —see TABLE 3

brigadier-gen-eral /,brɪgə'dɪərəl/ *n* a military rank —see TABLE 3

brig-and /'brɪɡənd/ *n fml or lit* an armed thief, one of a band of thieves living esp. in mountains; BANDIT

brig-an-tine /'brɪɡəntɪn/ *n* a ship like a BRIG, but with fewer sails

bright /braɪt/ *adj* **1** giving out or throwing back light very strongly; full of light; shining: *bright sunlight* | *The weather forecast said it would be mostly cloudy with a few bright intervals.* | *She longed for the bright lights* (=interesting and exciting activity) *of the big city.* | (fig.) *one of the brightest moments in our country's history* | (fig.) *It's rather a dull film — the only bright spots are the dancing scenes.* **2** (of a colour) strong, clear, and easily seen: *bright red* **3** full of life; cheerful; happy: *Her face was bright with happiness.* | *bright eyes* **4** clever; quick at learning: *a bright child/idea* | *She should do well — she's very bright.* | (infml) *That child is as bright as a button.* (=very clever and full of life) —see CLEVER (USAGE) **5** showing hope or signs of future success: *You have a bright future ahead of you!* | *The long-term prospects for this industry are beginning to look brighter.* —see also ALL THINGS BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL, **look on the bright side (of things)** (LOOK¹) —~ly *adv*: *shining/smiling brightly* —~ness *n* [U]

Bright, John (1811–89) a British Liberal politician who was in favour of free trade and led the Anti-Corn Law League

bright-en /'braɪtn/ *v* [I;T (UP)] to (cause to) become bright: *She brightened (up) when we reached the hotel.* | *These new curtains will brighten (up) the room.*

bright-eyed and bush-y-tailed /,brɪtˌeɪd ˌbʊʃˌtɪld/ *adj infml* working well and quickly, and full of new ideas

Bright-on /'braɪtn/ a town on the S coast of England which is a popular place for people to go to for a holiday, esp. people who live in London. It also has an important CONFERENCE centre. —see colour map on page 818

brights /braɪts/ *n* [P] AmE infml car HEADLIGHTS which are on as brightly as possible: *Do you have your brights on?*

bright spark /,ˈbrɪt ˈspɑːk/ *n* BrE *infml*, esp. *humor* or *derog* a clever or cheerful person

brill /brɪl/ *adj infml*, esp. BrE very good; BRILLIANT¹ (2); used only by younger people

bril-liant¹ /ˈbrɪljənt/ *adj* **1** very bright, splendid, or showy in appearance: *The sun shone in a brilliant blue sky.* | *brilliant colours* **2** causing great admiration or satisfaction because a very clever: *a brilliant idea/invention/scientist* **b** highly skilled; extremely good: *a brilliant speaker* | *a technically brilliant performance* —see CLEVER (USAGE) —*~ly adv* —**liance**, **liancy** *n* [U]: *her brilliance as an engineer*

brilliant² *n tech* a precious stone cut with many surfaces to make it shine

bril-lian-tine /ˈbrɪljəntɪn/ *n* [U] an oily mixture for making men's hair shine and stay in place. It has not been used much since the 1950s except by older men.

Bril-lo pad /ˈbrɪləʊ ˈpæd/ *n tdmk* a type of pan SCOURER, made of a ball of wire filled with soap, made by Johnson Wax Ltd and used for cleaning pans

brim¹ /brɪm/ *n* **1** the top edge of a cup, bowl, etc., esp. with regard to how full it is: *The glass was full to the brim.* **2** the bottom part of a hat which turns outwards to give shade or protection against rain: *You can wear the hat with the brim turned up or down.* **3** **-brimmed** /brɪmd/ having the stated kind of BRIM¹ (2): *a broad-brimmed hat*

brim² *v* **-mm-** [I (with)] to be full to the brim: *His eyes brimmed with tears.*

brim over *phr v* [I (with)] **1** to become full and begin to overflow: *Turn off the taps — the sink is brimming over.* **2** to express a lot of (a good feeling): *brimming over with self-confidence/happiness*

brim-ful, **-full** /ˈbrɪm ˌfʊl/ *adj* [F (of, with)] full to the brim; overflowing (OVERFLOW)

brim-stone /ˈbrɪmstəʊn, -stən/ *n* [U] esp. *old use* the chemical SULPHUR —see also **fire and brimstone** (FIRE)

brin-dled /ˈbrɪndld/ *adj* (esp. of cows, dogs, and cats) brown with marks or bands of another colour

brine /breɪn/ *n* **1** [U] water containing a lot of salt, used for preserving food **2** [the+S] *lit* or *humor* the sea —see also BRINY —**briny** *adj*

bring /brɪŋ/ *v* **brought** /brɔːt/ [T] **1** to come with, carry, or lead (to or towards): *Bring your friend to the party.* | *She brought some toys for the children.* | *The defendant was brought before the judge.* | *The new manager started last week, bringing with him plenty of new ideas.* [+obj(i)+obj(d)] *Bring me the book.* —see USAGE **2** to cause or lead to: *The minister's speech brought an angry reaction from his opponents.* | *The long drought brought great hardship for the farmers.* [+obj(i)+obj(d)] *The play's success brought her great satisfaction.* **3** to cause to come (to a particular place, condition, or course of action): *His sad letter brought many offers of help.* [+obj+adv/prep] *It was their interest in photography that brought them together.* | *The gas is brought ashore by a pipeline.* | *That brings the total to £200.* | *The sight brought tears to our eyes.* | *What brings you here today?* (=what is your reason for coming?) | *It was my secretary who brought the matter to my attention/notice.* | *Put the milk in a pan and bring it to the boil.* | *The company was brought into being* (=started) *last year.* | *The fraudulent behaviour of a few individuals has brought the whole profession into disrepute.* | *A walkout by factory workers has brought production to a standstill.* | *A few extra classes will be all that is needed to bring her up to the standard of the rest of the class.* | *She brought the meeting to an end/close as it was getting late.* [+obj+v-ing] *Her screams brought the neighbours running.* [+obj+to-v] *I couldn't bring myself to tell her the bad news.* (=couldn't bear to tell her) **4** to be sold for: *This old car will bring about £10.* [+obj(i)+obj(d)] *The pictures he sells bring him £12,000 a year.* **5** [(against)] *law* to make officially: *Do you think they'll bring charges (against him)?* | *to bring a libel action*

▷ USAGE **Bring, take, fetch, and carry** are all used to talk about movement of something along with a person, caused by that person. **Bring** suggests movement of something towards the speaker or the place where the speaker is: *Bring that book here.* | *They came to my party and brought me a present.* **Take** suggests movement of something to another place: *Take your*

umbrella when you go out. | *We went to her party and took her a present.* **Fetch** means "go and get something and bring it back": *Please fetch the scissors from the kitchen.* **Fetch** is not often used in American English. Instead, **get** or **go and get** are used for this meaning: *Get the sheets from the cupboard.* | *Will you go and get some eggs at the store?* **Carry** does not give any idea as to the direction of movement, but suggests support with the arms or body: *They carried the body down the mountain.* | *She carried the bag on her back.* ◀

bring sthg. ↔ **about** *phr v* [T] to cause to happen: *Science has brought about many changes in our lives.* | *The increase in business activity was brought about by the fall in oil prices.*

bring sbdy. **around/round** *phr v* [T] **1** [(to)] also **bring over**— to persuade into a change of opinion: *I'm sure we'll be able to bring him around to our point of view.* **2** also **bring to**— to cause to regain consciousness: *She opened all the windows in the hope of bringing him round.*

bring sbdy./sthg. ↔ **back** *phr v* [T] **1** to cause to return: *All library books must be brought back before June 20.* | *If I go with you in your car, will you be able to bring me back?* | *Even if the Republicans abolish the tax, the Democrats would be sure to bring it back.* [+obj(i)+obj(d)] *Bring us back our books, please.* **2** to obtain and return with: *He brought some beautiful carpets back from Iran.* [+obj(i)+obj(d)] *When you go to the post office, will you bring me back some stamps/bring me some stamps back/bring some stamps back for me?* **3** to cause to return to the mind: *Hearing the song brought back happy memories.* | *Seeing her again brought it all back.*

bring sbdy./sthg. ↔ **down** *phr v* [T] **1** to cause to fall or come down: *The pilot brought the plane down gently.* | *He brought the bird down with one shot.* | *The good harvest brought down the price of strawberries.* | *Don't try to bring me down* (=to lower my behaviour) *to your level.* **2** *sl* to discourage or disappoint —see also **bring the house down** (HOUSE¹)

bring sthg. ↔ **down on** sbdy. *phr v* [T] to cause (something bad) to happen to: *His reckless spending brought down disaster on his whole family.*

bring forth sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] *old use* to produce, esp. give birth to: "Bring forth men children only." (Shakespeare, *Macbeth*)

bring sthg. ↔ **forward** *phr v* [T] **1** to introduce or produce for examination; show: *A plan was brought forward to allow workers to share in the profits.* | *Can you bring forward any proof of your story?* **2** also **put forward**— to bring (something in the future) nearer to the present time: *The election will be brought forward from July to June.* **3** (in BOOKKEEPING) to move (the total at the bottom of the last page) to the top of a list of figures, before adding in the figures on the new page

bring sbdy./sthg. ↔ **in** *phr v* [T] **1** to cause to come in; introduce: *to bring in a bill in Parliament* | *They brought experienced people in to help.* | *The policeman brought in* (=to the police station) *two boys he had caught stealing.* | *Everyone who is going to work on the project should be brought in on it* (=should take part in it) *from the planning stage.* **2** to produce as profit or income; earn: *The sale brought in over £200.* | *She's bringing in £250 a week.* **3** to give (a decision) in court: *The jury brought in a verdict of guilty.*

bring sthg. ↔ **off** *phr v* [T] to succeed in doing (something difficult): *to bring off a big business deal*

bring sthg. ↔ **on** *phr v* [T] **1** to cause or result in (an undesirable condition or situation): *Her fever was brought on by going out in the rain.* | *The crisis in our industry was brought on by intense competition from foreign producers.* **2** to cause to develop or improve: *This warm weather should bring on the crops.* | *A month in London will bring on your English.*

bring sthg. **on/upon** sbdy. *phr v* [T] to cause (something unpleasant) to happen to: *You've brought the trouble on yourself.*

bring sbdy./sthg. ↔ **out** *phr v* [T] **1** to present (a new product) to the public; introduce for sale: *They're bringing out a new model of the car next year.* | *A special issue of the magazine was brought out to commemorate the occasion.* **2** to cause to be seen; make clear: *The increased responsibility brought out her best qualities.* | *That friend of his seems to bring out the worst in him.* **3** also **draw out**— to help (someone) feel less nervous or awkward in the company of others: *Mary is very shy: try to bring her out at the party.* **4** esp. BrE to cause (workers) to go on

STRIKE² (1): *They've threatened to bring the men out if their demands aren't met.*

bring sbdy. **out in** *phr v* [T] *BrE* to cause to suffer the stated skin condition: *Eating a lot of cheese always brings me out in spots.* | *Strawberries bring him out in a rash.*

bring sbdy. ↔ **round** *phr v* [T] to **BRING** around

bring sbdy. **through** (sthg.) *phr v* [T] to cause to come successfully through (a difficult or dangerous situation): *The doctor brought him through (a serious illness).* | *The people's courage brought them through (the war).* —see also **PULL through** (1)

bring sbdy./sthg. ↔ **up** *phr v* [T] **1** to educate and care for (a child) until grown-up: *to bring up children* | *well/badly brought up* | *She was brought up to believe that money is the most important thing in life.* **2** to mention or bring to attention (a subject): *Don't bring up that embarrassing topic.* —compare **COME up** (1) **3** esp. *BrE* to vomit (one's food): *He brought up his dinner.* **4** **bring someone up short** to cause to stop suddenly: *I was about to enter the room, when I was brought up short by a note on the door.* —see also **bring up the rear** (**REAR**¹)

bring-and-buy sale /ˌbrɪŋ.ən.dɪ.ˈbaɪ/ also **bring-and-buy** /ˌbrɪŋ.ən.dɪ.ˈbaɪ/ — *n* *BrE* a sale, usu. to raise money for a CHARITY, where people bring goods to be sold and buy goods brought by other people

bringing-up /ˌbrɪŋ.ɪŋ.ʊp/ *n* [U] *AmE* the act of educating and caring for a child until it is an adult: *She had a terrible bringing-up.*

brink /brɪŋk/ *n* [*the+S (of)*] **1** an edge, e.g. at the top of a cliff or a river: *They stood on the brink of the Grand Canyon.* **2** as far as one can go without actually being in a condition or situation; **VERGE**: *His failures brought him to the brink of (=dangerously near) ruin.* | *a rare animal on the brink of extinction*

brink-man-ship /ˌbrɪŋkmənʃɪp/ *BrE* || **brinks-man-ship** /ˌbrɪŋksmən-/ *AmE* — *n* [U] *informal* the art of trying to gain an advantage by going to the limit of safety, esp. in international politics, before stopping

brin-y /ˈbrɪni/ *n* [*the+S*] *lit or humor* the sea

bri-och /ˈbrɪːɒʃ, ˈbrɪːəʊʃ||ˈbrɪːəʊʃ, -ˈɔːʃ/ *n* a small cake made with a lot of eggs and butter

bri-quette /brɪˈket/ *n* coal dust pressed into a block for burning in a fireplace

Bris-bane /ˈbrɪzbən/ a port and the capital city of Queensland state in the E of Australia, the third largest city in the country

brisk /brɪsk/ *adj* **1** quick and active: *a brisk walker/walk* | *a brisk manner* | *ice-cream vendors doing brisk business during the heat wave* **2** (esp. of wind and air) pleasantly cold and strong — *~ly adv* — *~ness n* [U]

bris-ket /ˈbrɪskɪt/ *n* [U] meat from an animal's chest

bris-tle¹ /ˈbrɪsəl/ *n* [C;U] (a) short stiff hair: *His chin was covered with bristles.* | *The brush is made of animal bristle(s).*

bristle² *v* [I (*UP, at, with*)] (of an animal's hair or fur) to stand up stiffly (e.g. because of anger, distrust, etc.): *The dog's hair bristled (up) when the visitors came to the door.* | (fig.) *They bristled (with anger) at his denigrating description of their activities.*

bristle with sthg. *phr v* to have plenty of (esp. something unpleasant or unattractive); be full of: *The streets bristled with armed guards after the latest terrorist attack.*

bris-tly /ˈbrɪsli/ *adj* **1** like or full of bristles: *a bristly chin* **2** difficult to deal with because easily angered or annoyed

Bris-tol /ˈbrɪstl/ an industrial city and international port in the SW of England, where the local government for Avon is based. The Clifton Suspension Bridge is in Bristol. —see colour map on page 818

Bristol Chan-nel /ˌbrɪstl.ˈtʃæ.nəl/ *n* [*the*] an area of water between S Wales and SW England which goes from the Atlantic Ocean to the mouth of the Severn River

Bristol Cream /ˌbrɪstl.ˈkriːm/ *n* [U] *tdmk* a type of very sweet SHERRY which is made by Harvey's; it is one of the best known types of sherry in the UK

Brit /brɪt/ *n* *informal* a British person: *The Brits are always complaining about the food.*

Brit-ain /ˈbrɪtən/ Great Britain or the UK —see **UK (USAGE)**; see also **BATTLE OF BRITAIN**

Bri-tan-nia /brɪˈtæn.jə/ **1** a female figure representing Britain, formerly shown on some coins. *Britannia* is usu.

shown sitting down, wearing a **HELMET**, and holding a **TRIDENT**. There is a popular **PATRIOTIC** song called *Rule Britannia*. —compare **JOHN BULL** **2** a British **BUILDING SOCIETY**, branches of which are found in many towns and cities in Britain



Britannia

Britannia Roy-al Na-val Col-lege /ˌbrɪt.ə.ni.ə.ˈnɑːl.ˈkɒl.ɪdʒ/ see **ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE**

britch-es /ˈbrɪtʃɪz/ *n* [P] *AmE* for **BREECHES**

Brit-ish /ˈbrɪtɪʃ/ *adj* of Britain (or the British Commonwealth): *a British citizen/passport* | *the British government* | *I'm German, but my husband is British.* | *to speak British English* [also *n, the+P*] *The British drink a lot of tea.* —see **UK (USAGE)**

► **CULTURAL NOTE** British people are often thought to be **RESERVED** (= quiet and not showing their feelings) and to “keep a stiff upper lip” (= to accept bad luck or unpleasant events without appearing upset). British people are also thought to use **UNDERSTATEMENT** (= to talk in a way which makes things seem less serious or important than they really are). ◀

British A-cad-e-my /ˌbrɪt.ɪʃ.ə.ˈkæ.də.mi/ [*the*] a society begun in 1901 to encourage the study of language, literature, PHILOSOPHY, economics, etc.

British Ae-ro-space /ˌbrɪtɪʃ.ˈeərəʊspeɪs/ the largest British company producing **CIVIL** and military aircraft, **MIS-SILES**, and space systems. British Aerospace was formed in 1978 from various famous aircraft companies and was owned by the state, but in 1985 it became a private company.

British Air-ways /ˌbrɪt.ɪʃ.ˈeɪr.weɪz/ the largest British **AIRLINE**

British Ar-my of the Rhine /ˌbrɪt.ɪʃ.ə.ˈmɪ.ə.ˈvɔː.ˈoʊ.ˈf.ðə.ˈraɪn/ [*the*] the British forces in W Germany since the Second World War as part of NATO's defence against the former **USSR**

British Board of Film Cen-sors /ˌbrɪt.ɪʃ.ˈbɔːd.əv.ˈfɪlm.ˈtʃɛn.səz/ [*the*] a group of people in Britain who watch all films that are produced and decide whether they are suitable for children, e.g. whether they contain a lot of sex and violence. They give a **CERTIFICATE** to each film, which shows whether the film is suitable for all children (**U**), for children who have an adult with them (**PG**), for children over 12 years old (**12**), for children over 15 years old (**15**), or suitable for adults only (**18**). They can decide that the film should not be shown at all in Britain.

British-born /ˌbrɪt.ɪʃ.ˈbɔːn/ *adj* born in Britain: *a British-born Australian*

British Broad-cast-ing Corporation /ˌbrɪt.ɪʃ.ˈbrɔːd.kæst.ɪŋ.ˈkɔːp.ə.reɪ.ʃən/ *n* [*the*] the **BBC**

British Cal-e-do-ni-an /ˌbrɪtɪʃ.ˈkæl.ɪ.də.ˈni.ən/ a former British **AIRLINE** company

British Coal /ˌbrɪt.ɪʃ.ˈkɔːl/ a British company which is the main producer of coal in Britain

British Co-lum-bi-a /ˌbrɪt.ɪʃ.ˈkɒl.əm.bi.ə/ (*abbrev. BC*) a **PROVINCE** in W Canada, bordering on the Pacific Ocean

British Com-mon-wealth /ˌbrɪt.ɪʃ.ˈkɒm.mən.ˈwelθ/ see **COMMONWEALTH**

British Coun-cil /ˌbrɪt.ɪʃ.ˈkaʊn.sɪl/ [*the+sing./pl.v*] an organization representing Britain's interests abroad. It employs teachers of English and supports educational visits between Britain and other countries, and also libraries, **ARTS** events and **EXHIBITIONS**.

British Em-pire /ˌbrɪt.ɪʃ.ˈem.paɪr/ [*the*] the group of countries formerly connected with and controlled by Great Britain, which was at its largest at the time of the First World War, when it included 25 per cent of the world's area

Brit-ish-er /'brɪtʃə/ *n* *AmE* a person who comes from, or whose parents come from Britain

British Film In-sti-tute /,brɪtɪʃ 'ɪn.stɪ.tjuːt/ [*the*] a British organization which encourages film making and manages the National Film Theatre

British Gas /,brɪtɪʃ 'ɡæs/ a British company dealing in the production and selling of natural gas. It used to be a government-owned company but became a private company in 1986.

British Home Stores /,brɪtɪʃ 'hoʊm.stɔːz/ (*abbrev.* **BHS**) a group of large shops, with branches in many British towns, selling mainly clothes but also lighting, food, etc.

British Isles /,brɪtɪʃ 'aɪləz/ *n* [*the*+P] the group of islands made up of Great Britain, Ireland, and the smaller islands around them, such as the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man —see **UK** (USAGE)

British Le-gion /,brɪtɪʃ 'leɪʒən/ also **Royal British Legion**— [*the*] a British organization which helps people who have been in the armed forces and their families. The British Legion collects money by selling poppies (POPPY) for Poppy Day.

British Ley-land /,brɪtɪʃ 'leɪlənd/ (*abbrev.* **BL**) a British company that makes cars

British Li-bra-ry /,brɪtɪʃ 'laɪbrəri/ *n* [*the*] the national library of Britain, based in London and Yorkshire, which receives a copy of every book produced in Britain

British Li-ons /,brɪtɪʃ 'lɪʒnz/ *n* [*the*+P] the Rugby Union team chosen from players from England, Scotland, Wales, and Ireland to play in international matches

British Mid-land /,brɪtɪʃ 'mɪdlənd/ a British AIRLINE company which has flights to many towns and cities within Britain

British Mu-se-um /,brɪtɪʃ 'miːzəm/ [*the*] (the building in London containing) Britain's most important collection of ancient art, writings, coins, drawings, etc. —see colour map on page 817

British Nu-cle-ar Fuels /,brɪtɪʃ 'njuːklɪə fjuːls/ a British government-owned company which produces NUCLEAR FUEL

British O-pen /,brɪtɪʃ 'əʊpən/ also **the Open**— [*the*] an important British GOLF competition held every year in Prestwick, Scotland, for PROFESSIONAL and AMATEUR players

British Rail /,brɪtɪʃ 'reɪl/ (*abbrev.* **BR**)— the national railway of Britain, formerly called British Railways

British Steel /,brɪtɪʃ 'stiːl/ a British company mainly involved in the production of different types of steel

British Sum-mer Time /,brɪtɪʃ 'sʌmə.taɪm/ (*abbrev.* **BST**) *n* [U] time shown on clocks that is one hour ahead of Greenwich Mean Time, used in Britain from late March to late October —compare DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

British Tel-e-com-mu-ni-cations Plc /,brɪtɪʃ 'tel.ɪ.kəm.mjuː.nɪ.kəʃnz plɪ/ (*abbrev.* **BT**) the largest telephone and TELECOMMUNICATIONS company in Britain

British West In-dies /,brɪtɪʃ 'west.ɪnˈdiːz/ *n* [*the*+P] the former name for a group of states in the Caribbean Sea that are members of the Commonwealth, including the Bahamas, Barbados, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, the Leeward Islands, and the Windward Islands

Brit-on /'brɪtn/ *n* *usu. fml* a British person: *the ancient Britons* | *The report said there were three Britons on the crashed plane.*

Brit-tan /'brɪtn/, **Sir Le-on** /'liːən/ (1939–) a British Conservative politician who was Secretary for Trade and Industry in 1985–86 but resigned (RESIGN) over his involvement in the **Westland affair**. In 1988 he became a European Commissioner.

Brit-tan-y /'brɪtəni/ a REGION of NW France, a PENINSULA between the Bay of Biscay and the English Channel

Brit-ten /'brɪtn/, **Ben-ja-min** /'bendʒəmɪn/ (1913–76) an English COMPOSER of music mainly for voices, including the OPERAS *Peter Grimes* and *Billy Budd*

bri-ttle¹ /'brɪtl/ *adj* 1 hard but easily broken: *brittle glass* | (fig.) *a brittle friendship* 2 lacking warmth or depth of feeling: *brittle humour*

brittle² *n* [U] a mixture of nuts, butter, and sugar made into a hard sweet: *peanut brittle*

Brit-vic /'brɪtvɪk/ *n* *tdmk* a company which makes soft (=not alcoholic) drinks, used esp. for mixing with spirits

Brix-ton /'brɪkstən/ an area of S London, with a large black community. In 1981 Brixton was the scene of serious fighting (RIOTS) involving discontented young people, esp. black people and the police.

bro /brəʊ/ *n* *AmE, infml* (*short for*) brother; used esp. by black Americans

broach /brəʊtʃ/ *v* [T] 1 [(to)] to introduce as a subject of conversation; start to talk about (something difficult or likely to cause argument): *At last he broached the subject of the new contract to them.* 2 *tech* to open (an unopened bottle or barrel)

B-road /'bɪː rəʊd/ *n* in Britain, a less important country road (often shown in yellow on maps) with the letter B before its number

broad¹ /brɔːd/ *adj* 1 large, or larger than usual, when measured from side to side; wide: *broad shoulders* | *a broad river* | *a broad smile* —compare **NARROW**¹ (1) 2 [after *n*] (after an expression of measurement) in width; across: *four metres broad* 3 stretching out far and wide; EXTENSIVE: *broad plains* | *a sports centre catering for a broad range of activities* | *a broad-spectrum antibiotic* (=one that has effect on a wide range of infections) | *a policy that enjoys broad popular support* (=is supported by most people) 4 not limited in thought, ideas, etc.: *the broad sweep of the writer's imagination* | *Her taste in literature is very broad.* —see also **BROADMINDED** 5 [A] not particular or detailed; general: *Just give me a broad outline of the plan.* 6 [A] full and clear; plain; open: *The burglars broke into the house in broad daylight.* | *a broad hint* 7 (of a way of speaking) strongly marked; showing clearly where the speaker comes from: *He spoke broad Scots.* | *a broad Texas accent* 8 (e.g. of jokes) rather rude, esp. about sexual matters; not acceptable in polite society: *broad comedy/humour* 9 **broad in the beam** *infml* having broad hips; rather fat; more often used of women 10 **It's as broad as it's long** *esp. BrE* It does not matter which of two things or courses of action one chooses, because neither is clearly better than the other: *It's cheaper by bus, but the train is a lot quicker, so it's as broad as it's long.* —see **WIDE** (USAGE) — ~ *ly adv*: *Broadly (speaking), I agree with you.* | *Her job is broadly similar to mine.* — ~ *ness n* [U]

broad² *n* 1 [*usu. pl.*] (*usu. cap. as part of a name*) an open area of water formed where a river broadens out, esp. in eastern England: *the Norfolk Broads* 2 *AmE derog sl* a woman

broad-band /'brɔːdbænd/ *adj tech* a system of sending radio signals which allows several messages to be sent at the same time

broad bean /,brɔː 'biːn/ also **fava bean** *AmE*— *n* a large flat pale green bean

broad brush /,brɔː 'brʊʃ/ *n* [S] a way of talking about only the main features of something.: *He painted the situation with a broad brush.* (=explained it only generally, not giving many details) **broadbrush** /'brɔːdbrʌʃ/ *adj*: *a broadbrush strategy for increasing sales*

broad-cast¹ /'brɔːdkɑːst||-kæst/ *n* an act of sending sound and/or pictures by radio or television: *a live broadcast of the football game* | *a television/radio news broadcast*

broadcast² *v broadcast* 1 [I;T] to send out (radio or television PROGRAMMES): *The BBC broadcasts to all parts of the world.* | *The concert is being broadcast live.* 2 [T] to make widely known: *He broadcast the news to all his friends.* — ~ *er n* — ~ *ing n* [U]

Broadcasting Com-plaints Com-mis-sion /,brɔːdkɑːstɪŋ kəmˈplɪnts kəmɪˈʃn/ [*the*] a group of people who look at and deal with complaints about radio or television programmes in Britain

Broadcasting House /,brɔːdkɑːstɪŋ haʊs/ the central office of the BBC

Broadcasting Stan-dards Coun-cil /,brɔːdkɑːstɪŋ stændəˈrds kaʊnˈsaɪl/ [*the*] in Britain, a group of people who watch television and radio programmes, and decide whether they contain too much sex or violence or are offensive or unsuitable in any way

broad-cloth /'brɔːdklɒθ||-klɔːθ/ *n* [U] thick woollen cloth of very good quality

broad-en /'brɔːdn/ *v* [I;T (OUT)] to make or become broader: *The river broadens (out) at this point.* | *Travel broadens the mind.* | *His parents hoped the course would broaden his horizons.* —compare **WIDEN**



- broad gauge** /'bɹɔːd ɡaʊd/ *n* a size of railway track of more than standard width
- broad jump** /'bɹɔːd ʤʌmp/ *n* [the] AmE for LONG JUMP
- broad-loom** /'brɔːdluːm/ *n* [U] tech a CARPET that is woven in a wide piece, esp. in one single colour
- broad-minded** /,brɔːd'maɪndɪd/ *adj* apprec willing to respect the opinions and behaviour of other people, even if very different from one's own —opposite **narrow-minded** — ~ly *adv* — ~ness *n* [U]
- Broad-moor** /'brɔːdmɔː/ a special hospital in Britain for criminals who are considered to be very dangerous because they are mentally ill
- Broads** /brɔːdz/ [the] the Norfolk Broads —see NORFOLK
- broad-sheet** /'brɔːdʃiːt/ *n* something (such as a newspaper or advertisement) printed on a large sheet of paper
- broad-side** /'brɔːdsaɪd/ *n* 1 a forceful spoken or written attack: *She delivered a withering broadside against the committee's decision.* 2 the firing of all the guns on one side of a ship at the same time 3 **broadside on** BrE || **broadside** AmE sideways: *The truck hit the car broadside on.*
- broad-sword** /'brɔːdsɔːd/ -sɔːrd/ *n* old use or lit a heavy sword with a broad flat blade, esp. one held and swung with both hands
- Broad-water Farm Es-tate** /,brɔːdwɔːtə ,fɑːm ɪ'steɪt/-wɔːtə ,fɑːm-, -wɔː-/ a place in N London in which a police officer was killed in 1985, when there was serious fighting (RIOTS) involving discontented young people and the police. Three people, called the Tottenham Three were sent to prison for the murder but were later freed when they were found to be innocent. —see also TOTTENHAM THREE
- Broad-way** /'brɔːdweɪ/ a street in New York City where there are many theatres and which has given its name to that city's theatre industry: *a Broadway musical* | *The show will open on Broadway next month.* —see also OFF-BROADWAY, and see colour map on pages 1374-5
- bro-cade**¹ /brə'keɪd/ ||brəʊ-/ *n* [U] decorative cloth with a raised pattern of gold or silver threads
- brocade**² *v* [T] to decorate (cloth) with a raised pattern: *a brocaded waistcoat*
- broc-co-li** /'brɒkəli/ ||bræ-/ *n* a vegetable whose young green or purple flower heads are eaten
- bro-chure** /'brɔːʃə, -ʃʊə/ ||brəʊ'ʃʊə/ *n* a book, often with pictures and of various sizes with a thin paper cover, esp. one giving instructions or details of a service: *a holiday brochure* | *an advertising brochure*
- brogue**¹ /brɔːg/ *n* [usu. pl.] a strong thick shoe with a pattern made in the leather —see PAIR (USAGE)
- brogue**² *n* [usu. sing.] a way of speaking, esp. the way in which the Irish speak English
- broil** /brɔɪl/ *v* 1 [T] AmE for GRILL —see COOK (USAGE) 2 [I;T] to (cause to) be very hot or too hot: *It's really broiling (hot) today!* | *I'm broiling in this hot sun!*
- broil-er** /'brɔɪlə/ *n* 1 a young small chicken bred to be cooked by broiling 2 *infml* a very hot day: *Yesterday was a real broiler!* 3 AmE for GRILL² (1) —see COOK (USAGE) and see picture at PAN
- broke**¹ /brɔːk/ *past tense* of BREAK¹
- broke**² *adj* [F] *infml* completely without money: *I'm flat broke/stony broke* (BrE). | *His firm has gone broke.*
- bro-ken**¹ /'brɔːkən/ *past participle* of BREAK¹: *The window was broken by a ball* | *a broken window*
- broken**² *adj* 1 damaged, spoilt, or made useless by breaking: *Be careful of the broken glass.* | *a broken clock/leg* | *a broken-down car* (=in a state of disrepair) 2 not fulfilled; disregarded: *a broken promise/agreement* 3 discontinuous; interrupted: *a broken journey/night's sleep* | *broken clouds* 4 made weak or discouraged, esp. by misfortune, ill-health, etc.: *a broken man* (=without hope or confidence) | *a broken spirit* | *a broken heart* 5 [A] destroyed by the separation of a husband and wife: *a broken marriage* 6 (of a language other than one's own) imperfectly spoken or written: *I managed to explain it to them in my broken French.* — ~ly *adv* — ~ness *n* [U]
- broken-heart-ed** /,brɔːk'heɪtəd/ *adj* HEARTBROKEN — ~ly *adv*
- broken home** /,brɔːk'həʊm/ *n* a home that is showing the effect of a husband and wife separating, e.g. by lack of money or other family problems: *children from broken homes* |
- He came from a broken home but is now a successful footballer.*
- bro-ker** /'brɔːkə/ *n* a person who does business for another, e.g. in buying and selling business shares or foreign money: *an insurance broker* | *a commodity broker* —see also POWER BROKER
- bro-ker-age** /'brɔːkərɪdʒ/ *n* [U] 1 the (place of) business of a broker: *a brokerage firm/house* 2 the sum of money charged by a broker
- bro-l-ly** /'brɒli/ ||bræli/ *n* BrE *infml* for UMBRELLA
- bro-mide** /'brəʊmaɪd/ *n* 1 [C;U] a chemical compound used in medicine to calm excitement 2 [C] *fml rare* a statement or idea without newness or freshness; PLATITUDE 3 [C] tech a photograph on specially treated paper used for printing: *the bromides of a book*
- bron-chi-al** /'brɒŋkiəl/ ||bræŋ-/ *adj* of the bronchial tubes: *bronchial pneumonia*
- bronchial tube** /'brɒŋkiəl'tjuːb/ *n* [usu. pl.] any of the branches or divisions of the bronchus —see picture at RESPIRATORY
- bron-chi-tis** /brɒŋ'kaɪtɪs/ ||bræŋ-/ *n* [U] an illness (INFLAMMATION) of the bronchial tubes that brings a cough and blocks up the nose —tic /'kɪtɪk/ *adj*: *a bronchitic cough*
- bron-chus** /'brɒŋkəs/ ||bræŋ-/ *n* pl -chi /kaɪ/ either of the two branches connecting the WINDPIPE (=breath tube) with the lungs
- bron-co** /'brɒŋkəʊ/ ||bræŋ-/ *n* -cos a wild or half-wild horse of the western US
- Bron-të** /'brɒnti, -teɪ/ ||bræŋ-/ *Anne* (1820–49) an English writer, the sister of Charlotte and Emily, best known for her NOVEL *Tenant of Wildfell Hall*
- Brontë, Char-lotte** /'ʃɑːlət/ ||'ʃɑːr-/ (1816–55) an English writer, the sister of Anne and Emily, best known for her NOVEL *Jane Eyre*
- Brontë, Em-i-ly** /'emɪli/ (1818–48) an English writer, the sister of Anne and Charlotte, best known for her NOVEL *Wuthering Heights*
- bron-to-sau-rus** /,brɒntə'sɔːrəs/ ||bræŋ-/ *n* -ri /raɪ/ a very large four-footed plant-eating DINOSAUR
- Bronx** /brɒŋks/ ||bræŋks/ [the] a COUNTY, and one of the five BOROUGHs, of New York City. The Bronx is a poor area of New York, but contains the zoo and Yankee Stadium (=the place where a BASEBALL team plays): *a tough Bronx kid* The South Bronx is known for drug dealers, violence and crime —see colour map on pages 1374-5
- Bronx cheer** /,brɒŋks'tʃɪə/ *n* AmE sl a rude sound made by putting one's tongue out and blowing; RASPBERRY (2)
- bronze**¹ /brɒnz/ ||brænz/ *n* 1 [U] (the dark reddish-brown colour of) a hard metal made mainly of copper and tin: *a bronze statue* 2 [C] a work of art made of bronze: *many fine bronzes in this collection* 3 [C] a BRONZE MEDAL
- bronze**² *v* [T] to give the appearance or colour of bronze to: *bronzed by the sun*
- Bronze Age** /'brɒnz'eɪdʒ/ *n* [the] the time when bronze was used for making tools, weapons, etc. before iron was known, about 4000–6000 years ago —compare IRON AGE, STONE AGE
- bronze med-al** /,brɒnz'eɪdʒ/ also **bronze**— *n* a usu. round flat piece of bronze given to the person who comes third in a race or competition: *She won the bronze medal in the women's 100 metres.*
- brooch** /brəʊtʃ/ also **pin** AmE— *n* a small decorative object worn on women's clothes, fastened on with a pin —compare BADGE and see picture at PIN
- brood**¹ /bruːd/ *n* [C+sing./pl. v] 1 a family of young creatures, esp. birds: *a brood of ducklings* 2 *infml* the children of one family: *She brought the whole brood with her.*
- brood**² *v* [I] 1 [(over, about)] to spend time thinking anxiously or sadly about something; worry or PONDER: *Don't just sit there brooding (over your problems) — do something!* | *He brooded for several days over what she had said.* 2 [(over)] to hang closely: *Dark clouds were brooding over the city.* — ~er *n*
- brood**³ *adj* [A] tech kept for giving birth to young: *a brood mare*
- brood-y** /'bruːdi/ *adj* 1 (of a mother bird) wanting to sit on her eggs: (fig.) *Anne always gets broody when she sees a baby.* (=she wants one of her own) 2 [F] sad and silent because of self-pity, unhappy thoughts, etc. —ily *adv* —iness *n* [U]

brook¹ /brʊk/ *n* a small stream

brook² *v* [T usu. in negatives] *fm*l to allow or accept without complaining; **TOLERATE**: *He would brook no interruptions from his listeners.*

Brooke /brʊk/, **Ru-pert** /'ru:pət||-pərt/ (1887–1915) an English poet known for his **ROMANTIC** war poems including *The Old Vicarage, Grantchester* and *The Great Lover*. He fought in the First World War, dying of blood-poisoning on the Greek island of Skyros.

Brooke Bond /,· '·/ *n* *tdmk* a company which makes food products and is best known for making different types of tea, including PG Tips and Brooke Bond Special

Brook-ings In-sti-tu-tion /'brʊkɪŋz ɪnstɪ,tʃu:ʃən||-,tu:-/ [*the*] an American organization in Washington, DC, which looks into political and economic problems

Brook-lyn /'brʊklɪn/ an industrial and international port area of New York City, and one of its five **BOROUGHs**. People of several races live in Brooklyn and there is often **RACIAL** violence there. —see colour map on pages 1374-5

Brooklyn Bridge /,· '·/ [*the*] a bridge connecting Brooklyn with Manhattan. In the US there is an old joke that **IMMIGRANTS** could be sold the Brooklyn Bridge because they did not know the well known buildings and customs of the city. So “being sold the Brooklyn Bridge” has come to mean being fooled in a business deal: *Did they sell you the Brooklyn Bridge?* —see colour map on pages 1374-5

Brooks /brʊks/, **Garth** /gɑ:θ||garθ/ (1956–) an American singer of country and popular music

Brook-side /'brʊksaɪd/ a television **SOAP OPERA** set in Liverpool, shown on Channel 4 in Britain since 1982. It is the most popular programme on Channel 4 and deals with many serious subjects in the lives of its characters.

broom /brʊ:m, brʊm/ *n* 1 [C] a large sweeping brush, usu. with a long handle —see also **NEW BROOM**, and see picture at **BRUSH** 2 [U] a large bushy plant with yellow flowers that grows on waste land

broom-stick /'brʊ:m,stɪk, 'brʊm-/ *n* a broom. In children's stories **WITCHES** fly through the air on broomsticks

Bros. /brɒs||brɔ:s/ *written abbrev. for*: Brothers (in the name of a company): *Jones Bros.*

broth /brɒθ||brɔ:θ/ *n* [U] soup in which meat, fish, rice, or vegetables have been cooked. Broth is often given to people who are ill because it is easily eaten: *chicken broth* —see also **too many cooks spoil the broth** (**COOK**²), **SCOTCH BROTH**

broth-el /'brɒθəl||'brɔ:-, 'brɔ:-/ *n* a house of **PROSTITUTES**, where sex can be had for money

broth-er¹ /'brʌðə^r/ *n* 1 a male relative with the same parents: *John and Peter are brothers.* | *John is Peter's elder/younger brother.* | *Mary has five brothers and a sister.* 2 (*pl. often brethren*) a male member of a religious group, esp. a **MONK**: *a community of Christian brothers* | *Brother John* 3 a male member of the same group or nationality, or one who shares the same interests; often used of and by men who are active in a **TRADE UNION**: *a brother doctor* | *We must all stand together, brothers!* 4 **brothers in arms** soldiers who have fought together in a war 5 **Am I my brother's keeper?** *saying* the affairs of other people are not my responsibility —see also **BIG BROTHER**, **BLOOD BROTHER**

brother² *interj esp. AmE* (an expression of slight annoyance and/or surprise): *Oh, brother!*

Brother, can you spare a dime? /,· · · · · '· '·/ the title of a song written about the Depression of the 1930s in the US. In the song, a man who had been rich and respected before the Depression asks people to give him money, as he is now poor. The song has come to represent the sadness and lack of money during the Depression.

broth-er-hood /'brʌðəhʊd||-ər-/ *n* 1 [C+*sing.*/pl. *v*] a society of men living a religious life 2 [U] a condition or feeling of friendliness and companionship, which is the result of shared interests, activities, etc. 3 [C+*sing.*/pl. *v*; usu. *sing.*] the whole body of people in a stated business or profession: *the medical brotherhood*

brother-in-law /'· · · · ·/ *n* **brothers-in-law** or **brother-in-laws** 1 the brother of one's husband or wife 2 the husband of one's sister 3 the husband of the sister of one's husband or wife

broth-er-ly /'brʌðəli||-ər-/ *adj* typical of a (loving) brother: *brotherly advice* —**liness** *n* [U]

Brothers Grimm /,· · '·/ [*the*] see **GRIMM**

brough-am /'brʊ:əm/ *n* a light closed carriage with four wheels, pulled by one horse and used in former times

brought /brɔ:t/ *past tense & participle of* **BRING**

brou-ha-ha /'brʊ:hɑ:hɑ:||brʊ:'hɑ:hɑ/ *n* [U] *old use or pomp* disorderly or unnecessary noise and activity; **COMMOTION**

brow /braʊ/ *n* 1 [C usu. *pl.*] an **EYEBROW** 2 [C] the **FOREHEAD** 3 [*the*+S (*of*)] the upper part of a slope: *We reached the brow of the hill.* —see also **knit one's brows** (**KNIT**)

brow-beat /'braʊbi:t/ *v* -beat, -beaten /bi:t/ [T (*into*)] to frighten or force to obey with threatening looks or words: *They browbeat him into signing the document.*

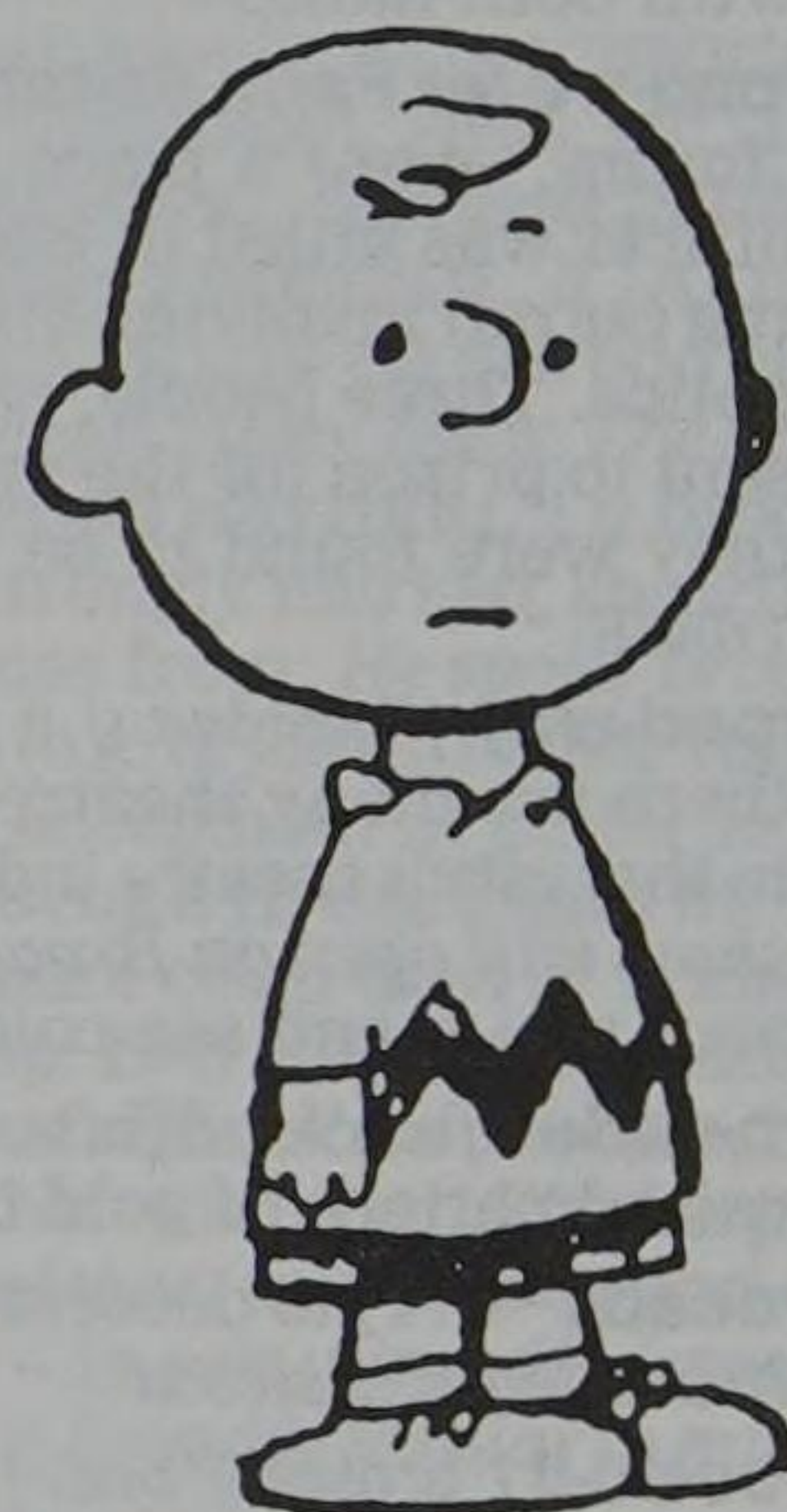
brown¹ /braʊn/ *adj* of the colour of earth, wood, or coffee: *brown shoes/eyes/bread* | *She's very brown* (=from being out in the sun) *after her holiday.* —**brown** *n* [C;U]: *dressed in brown* | *a light/dark brown*

brown² *v* [I;T] to (cause to) become browner: *browned by the sun* | *First brown the meat in hot fat.*

Brown, Capability (1716–83) an English gardener, whose work included planning many large and famous gardens of English country houses and castles

Brown, Charlie a character from the American **COMIC STRIP** *Peanuts* by Charles Schultz. Charlie Brown is not very confident and does not have many friends and is usu. unlucky. He has a dog called Snoopy.

Charlie Brown



Charlie Brown © 1950

Brown, James (1933–) an American popular music singer, songwriter, and musician, considered one of the greatest **SOUL** singers ever and known for his exciting stage performances

Brown, Jim /dʒɪm/ (1936–) an American **FOOTBALL** (2) player who set a record for making **TOUCHDOWNS** and later became an actor

Brown, John (1800–59) an American **ABOLITIONIST** (=someone who worked to end slavery) who tried to use violence to end slavery. With followers, he took over a government weapons establishment at **Harper's Ferry**, Virginia. He was caught and hanged for **TREASON**. Many people felt that he was a **MARTYR** (=someone who dies for a just or holy cause), and during the **CIVIL WAR**, a song called *John Brown's Body* became popular in the North. The song is still well-known and contains the words:

*John Brown's body lies a-mouldering in the grave,
But his soul goes marching on.*

Brown, Murphy see **MURPHY BROWN**

brown-bag /,· '·/ *v* [I] *AmE* to bring one's **LUNCH** to work, usu. in a brown paper bag: *I'm brown-bagging this week.*

browned-off /,· '·-/ *adj* [F (*with*)] *BrE infml* annoyed and discouraged; **FED UP**: *I got browned-off with waiting and went home.*

brown goods /'· ·/ *n* [P] *BrE* electrical goods bought to provide entertainment, such as TVs, home computers, etc. —compare **WHITE GOODS**

brown-ie /'braʊni/ *n* 1 a friendly little **FAIRY** 2 *AmE* a chocolate cake usu. with nuts in it —see also **BROWNIES**

Brownie point /'· ·,·/ *n* [*usu. pl.*] *infml* a mark of notice and approval for something good that one has done (from the special points, called Brownie points, that are given to Brownies for doing something good or well): *He tried to gain some Brownie points by doing the washing-up.*

Brown-ies /'braʊniz/ || also **Brownie Guides** /'· ·,·/ *BrE* —*n* [*the*+P] 1 (in Britain) a division of the **GUIDES**¹ (5) for younger girls 2 (in the US) a division of the **Girl Scouts** (**SCOUT**¹ (1)) for younger girls —compare **CUB SCOUT**

Brow-ning /'braʊniŋ/, **E-liz-a-beth Bar-rett** /'lɪzəbəθ 'bærət/ (1806–61) an English poet who married the poet Robert Browning in 1846

Browning, Robert /'rɒbət||'rɑ:bərt/ (1812–89) an English poet, married to Elizabeth Barrett Browning, whose

- brush** (sthg. ↔) **up phr v** [I+on;T] to improve one's knowledge of (something known but partly forgotten) by study: *I must brush up (on) my French before I go to Paris.* —**brush-up** /'· ·/ *n*
- brush**³ *n* [U] 1 small branches broken off from trees or bushes 2 (land covered by) small rough trees and bushes
- Brush, Basil** a PUPPET formerly on children's television in Britain. He looks like a FOX, dresses like an English country gentleman, and tells foolish jokes ending them with the words "Boom-boom" and a funny laugh.
- brush-off** /'· ·/ *n* [the+S] *infml* a clear refusal to be friendly or to listen; rude dismissal: *I wanted to speak to her, but she gave me the brush-off.* —see also BRUSH² off
- brush-wood** /'brʌʃwʊd/ *n* [U] BRUSH³ (1)
- brush-work** /'brʌʃwɜ:k||-wɜ:rk/ *n* [U] the method of putting on paint with a brush, esp. the characteristic style of an ARTIST in doing this: *vigorous brushwork*
- brusque** /brʊzsk, brusk||brʌsk/ *adj* quick and rather impolite; CURT: *a brusque person/manner/refusal* — *~ly adv* — *~ness n* [U]
- Brus-sels** /'brʌsəlz/ the capital city of Belgium, in the centre of the country, and the place from which the business of the European Community and NATO is run: *Why is it that the British tend to be so fearful of Brussels?*
- brus-sels sprout** /'· ·/ also **sprout**— *n* [usu. pl.] (often *cap.* B) a vegetable that is a small tight round bunch of leaves like a very small CABBAGE, and grows in groups on the sides of a high stem
- bru-tal** /'bru:təl/ *adj* showing a complete lack of kind or sensitive human feelings; very cruel or severe: *brutal violations of human rights* | *a brutal attack/attacker* | *a brutal dictatorship* | *the brutal* (=unpleasantly correct) *truth* — *~ly adv* — *~ity* /brʊ:'tælɪti/ *n* [C;U] : *the brutality/brutalities of war*
- bru-tal-ize** also **-ise** *BrE* /'bru:təl-aɪz/ *v* [T] 1 to make brutal or unfeeling: *people who have been brutalized by poverty and disease* 2 to treat brutally: *He brutalized the children.* —**ization** /brʊ:təl-aɪ'zeɪʃən||-lə-/ *n* [U]
- brute**¹ /brʊ:t/ *n* 1 sometimes *humor* a rough, cruel, insensitive person, esp. a man: *an unfeeling brute* | *a great brute of a man* | *You brute!* 2 sometimes *derog* an animal, esp. a large one: *Does that great brute of yours bite?* | *The horse broke its leg when it fell and the poor brute had to be destroyed.*
- brute**² *adj* [A *no comp.*] like (that of) an animal in being unreasonable, cruel, or very strong: *brute force/strength*
- Bru-te** /'bru:teɪ/ **Et tu, Brute?** (=and you, Brutus?) *quote* a phrase from Shakespeare's play *Julius Caesar*, used by Caesar when he realizes that even his good friend Brutus has betrayed (BETRAY) him and is going to kill him —see also JULIUS CAESAR and colour picture on page 1146
- brut-ish** /'bru:tɪʃ/ *adj* *derog* typical of animals rather than people: *brutish ignorance* — *~ly adv*
- Bru-tus** /'bru:təs/, **Mar-cus** /'mɑ:kəs||'mɑ:r-/ (85?–42 BC) a Roman politician who was the chief member of the PLOT to murder Julius Caesar —see also **Et tu, Brute?** (BRUTE)
- Bry-ant** /'braɪənt/, **Paul "Bear"** (1913–83) an American college FOOTBALL (2) COACH (teacher) who set a record for winning the most games
- Bryce Can-yon Na-tion-al Park** /braɪs ,kænjən ,næfənəl 'pɑ:k||-'pɑ:rk/ *n* a large park in the US state of Utah, known for its scenery of unusually shaped and coloured rock
- Bryl-creem** /'brɪlkri:m/ *n* [U] *tdmk* a type of oil used on hair, usu. by men, to make it smooth. It was popular esp. in the 1950s and 1960s but is now thought old-fashioned. —**Brylcreem** *v*: *Brylcreemed hair*
- Bryn-ner** /'brɪnər/, **Yul** /ju:l/ (1915–85) an American actor known esp. for having no hair. He played the King in *The King and I* on stage and on film, and was the leader in *The Magnificent Seven*.
- BS** /bi: 'es/ 1 British Standard; used in the numbers of



Yul Brynner

- standards drawn up by the BSI: *This product conforms to BS 2001.* 2 *AmE* for BSc
- BSc** /bi: es 'sɪz/ ||usu. **BS** *AmE*— *abbrev. for*: Bachelor of Science; (a title for someone who has) a first university degree in a science subject: *He has a BSc.* | *Mary Jones, BSc* —compare BA
- BSE** /bi: es 'i:z/ *n* [U] bovine spongiform encephalitis; a technical name for MAD COW DISEASE
- BSI** /bi: es 'aɪ/ [the] British Standards Institution; an organization which sets standards for units of measurement, clothes sizes, etc., and safety standards for electrical and other goods used in Britain
- B-side** /'bi: saɪd/ *n* the less important side of a record (of music, etc.)
- BSkyB** /bi: skai 'bi:z/ a SATELLITE television company, sometimes also known as **Sky**
- BST** /bi: es 'ti:z/ 1 *abbrev. for* BRITISH SUMMER TIME 2 bovine somatotropin; a HORMONE which is fed to cows to increase the amount of milk they give. The use of BST has been criticized because the effects of the hormone on humans over a long period of time are not known.
- BT** /bi: 'ti:z/ *abbrev. for* BRITISH TELECOM
- BTA** /bi: ti: 'eɪ/ [the] British Tourist Authority; an organization which brings British tourism to the notice of people abroad
- BTU** /bi: ti: 'ju:z/ *n* *tech* British thermal unit; the amount of heat needed to raise one pound of water by one degree FAHRENHEIT —compare CALORIE
- bub** /bʌb/ *n* *AmE sl* BUDDY (2)
- bub-ble**¹ /'bʌbəl/ *n* 1 a hollow ball of air or gas in a liquid (or sometimes in a solid): *When water boils, bubbles rise to the surface.* | *The children amused themselves by blowing bubbles with the soap solution.* | *She examined the crystal carefully for bubbles.* —compare FOAM¹ (1) 2 something which is unsteady, risky, or unlikely to last: *the bubble of real-estate speculation* | *News of the defeat quickly burst the bubble of our self-confidence.*
- bubble**² *v* [I+adv/prep] 1 to form, produce, or rise as bubbles: *The gas bubbled to the surface of the water.* 2 [(AWAY)] to make the sound of bubbles rising in liquid: *We could hear the pot bubbling (away) quietly on the fire.* 3 [(OVER)] to be full of life, high spirits, happiness, etc.: *She was bubbling over with happiness and enthusiasm.* | *bubbling wit* 4 *AmE* for BURBLE
- bubble and squeak** /'· · · '· ·/ *n* [U] *BrE* potatoes and CABBAGE that have already been cooked and are then cooked together in fat
- bubble bath** /'· · · '· ·/ *n* [C;U] a soap which makes BUBBLES in the water of a bath
- bubble gum** /'· · · '· ·/ *n* [U] CHEWING GUM that can be blown into bubbles. In American English it is esp. connected with young children: *a magazine aimed at the bubble-gum set*
- bubble pack** /'· · · '· ·/ *n* a BLISTER PACK
- bub-bly**¹ /'bʌbli/ *adj* 1 full of bubbles 2 full of life and high spirits; VIVACIOUS: *a bubbly personality*
- bubbly**² *n* [U] *old-fash infml* for CHAMPAGNE
- bu-bon-ic plague** /bjuz ,bɒnɪk 'pleɪg||bu: ,bɑ:z-/ *n* [U] a disease (common in former times) that spreads quickly from rats to people, produces swellings under the arms and elsewhere, and usu. causes death —see also BLACK DEATH
- buc-ca-neer** /'bʌkə'niə/ *n* a sea-robber; PIRATE
- Buch-an** /'bʌkən/, **John** (1875–1940) a Scottish writer, best known for his popular adventure NOVELS such as *The Thirty-nine Steps*
- Bu-chan-an** /bjuz 'cænən/, **James** (1791–1868) the 15th president of the US (1857–61)
- Bu-cha-rest** /'bʊ:kə'rest||'bʊ:kərest/ the capital and largest city of Romania
- Bu-chen-wald** /'bʊ:kənvæld||-wɔ:ld/ a CONCENTRATION CAMP near Weimar in SW Germany during the Second World War
- Buch-wald** /'bʌkwɔ:ld/, **Art** (1925–) an American writer known esp. for his humorous newspaper articles on political subjects
- buck**¹ /bʌk/ *n* 1 (*pl.* bucks or buck) *doe fem.* — [C] the male of certain animals, esp. the deer, the rat, and the rabbit

—compare DOE **2** (*pl. bucks or buck*) [C] an ANTELOPE **3** [*the*] *infml* responsibility for making a decision: *I don't know enough about it to decide, so I'll pass the buck to you.* | “**The Buck Stops Here**” (sign on the American president Harry S Truman's desk) **4** [C] *infml, esp. AmE* a dollar: *600 bucks* | *to make a quick/fast buck* (=make money quickly and usu. easily) **5** [C] *old use infml* a fine well-dressed young man in early 19th-century England: *Regency bucks*

buck² *v* **1** [I] (*esp. of a horse*) to jump up with all four feet off the ground —compare REAR² (2) **2** [T (OFF)] (*esp. of a horse*) to throw off (a rider) by doing this: *The wild horse bucked its first rider (off).* **3** [I] *AmE* (*esp. of a car or truck*) to move in a sharp, up-and-down way: *The car bucked and stalled.* **4** [T] *infml* to oppose in a direct manner; RESIST: *It's no use trying to buck the system.* | *The growth of the company has bucked the recessionary trend in the industry.*

buck up *phr v infml* **1** [T] (*buck sthg. ↔ up*) *BrE* to try to improve: *You'd better buck up your ideas* (=improve your behaviour, work harder, etc.) *if you want to pass that exam.* **2** [I] *BrE* to hurry up: *If you don't buck up we'll be late.* **3** [I;T (=buck sbdy. up)] to (cause to) become happier or more cheerful; CHEER up: *Buck up! Lots of people fail their driving test first time.* —see also BUCKED

Buck, Pearl (1892–1973) an American writer who lived most of her life until 1931 in China, and wrote several NOVELS about that country

buck-board /'bʌkbɔ:d/ *n* (*esp. in the US in the 19th century*) a light four-wheeled vehicle pulled by a horse

bucked /bʌkt/ *adj* [F (by, at)] *BrE infml* made more cheerful; pleased: *We were bucked by/at the good news.*

buck-et¹ /'bʌkɪt/ *n* **1** an open metal, plastic, or wooden container with a handle for carrying liquids. Young children on a holiday by the sea in Britain and the US often have a **bucket and spade** *BrE*/sand pail *AmE* for building sandcastles. **2** [(of)] also **buck-et-ful** /-fʊl/— the quantity held by a bucket: *She poured a bucket/two bucketfuls of water over me.* | (fig.) *The rain came down in buckets.* (=it rained very hard) —see also **kick the bucket** (KICK¹ (11)) **3** a drop in the bucket a small amount which is not enough: *The money budgeted is a drop in the bucket compared to what is needed.*

bucket² *v* [I] **1** [(DOWN)] *BrE infml* to rain very hard: *It's been/The rain's been bucketing down all day.* **2** [+adv/prep] to move very roughly and irregularly: *The car bucketed down the steep road.*

bucket seat /'bʌkɪt si:t/ *n* a round-backed separate seat for one person in a car, esp. a racing or sports car, or aircraft

bucket shop /'bʌkɪt ʃɒp/ *n infml, esp. BrE* a business that obtains large quantities of tickets for air travel and sells them to the public at a low price

Buck-ing-ham Pa-lace /'bʌkɪŋəm 'pælɪs/ also **the Palace**—the official home of the British royal family in London, containing almost 600 rooms: *Buckingham Palace today gave details of the Queen's forthcoming visit to Australia.* —see colour map on page 817

Buck-ing-ham-shire /'bʌkɪŋəmʃə/ a COUNTY in central S England

buck-le¹ /'bʌkəl/ *n* a metal fastener used for joining the two ends of a belt or STRAP, for fastening a shoe, bag, etc., or for decoration —see picture at FASTENER

buckle² *v* [I;T] **1** [(ON, UP, TOGETHER)] to (cause to) fasten with a buckle: *He buckled (up) his belt tightly.* | *The two ends buckle (together) at the back.* | *He buckled on his sword.* | *She buckled herself into her seat.* —opposite **un-buckle** **2** to (cause to) become bent or wavy through heat, pressure, etc.: *The accident buckled the wheel of my bicycle.* | *The wheel buckled.* | (fig.) *to buckle under the attack and run away*

buckle down *phr v* [I (to)] to begin to work seriously (at): *to buckle down to work/to writing the book*

buckle to *phr v* [I] *BrE* to begin to work seriously: *If we all buckle to, we'll soon get the job done.*

buck-ler /'bʌklə/ *n esp. lit* a small circular shield with a raised centre

buck na-ked /'bʌkə/ *adj AmE, infml* (of a person) completely NAKED

buck-ram /'bʌkrəm/ *n* [U] stiff cloth used, esp. in former times, for covering books, stiffening clothes, etc.

buck's fizz /'bʌk fɪz/ *n* [C;U] (a glass of) a mixture of CHAMPAGNE and orange juice

Bucks Fizz /'bʌk fɪz/ an English musical group formed in 1981 who played popular music and won the Eurovision Song Contest with the song *Making Your Mind Up*

buck-shee /'bʌkʃi:/ *adj, adv BrE old-fash sl* free; without payment

buck-shot /'bʌkʃɒt/ *n* [U] middle-sized lead shot used esp. for hunting

buck-skin /'bʌk skɪn/ *n* [U] strong soft yellowish leather made from the skin of a deer or goat

buck-tooth /'bʌk tu:θ/ *n* -teeth /'ti:θ/ [*usu. pl.*] a large front tooth that sticks out

buck-wheat /'bʌkwɪt/ *n* [U] small black grain often used as food for hens, and for making PANCAKES

bu-col-ic /bjʊ:'kɒlɪk/ -'kæz/ *adj lit* of or concerning the country and country people: *bucolic dances* — ~ ally /kli/ *adv*

bud¹ /bʌd/ *n* a young tightly rolled-up flower or leaf before it opens: *daffodil buds* | *rose buds* | *The new buds appear in the spring.* | *The magnolia has come into bud.* | *The roses are in bud.* —see also TASTE BUD, nip in the bud (NIP¹)

bud² *v* -dd- [I] to produce buds —see also BUDDING

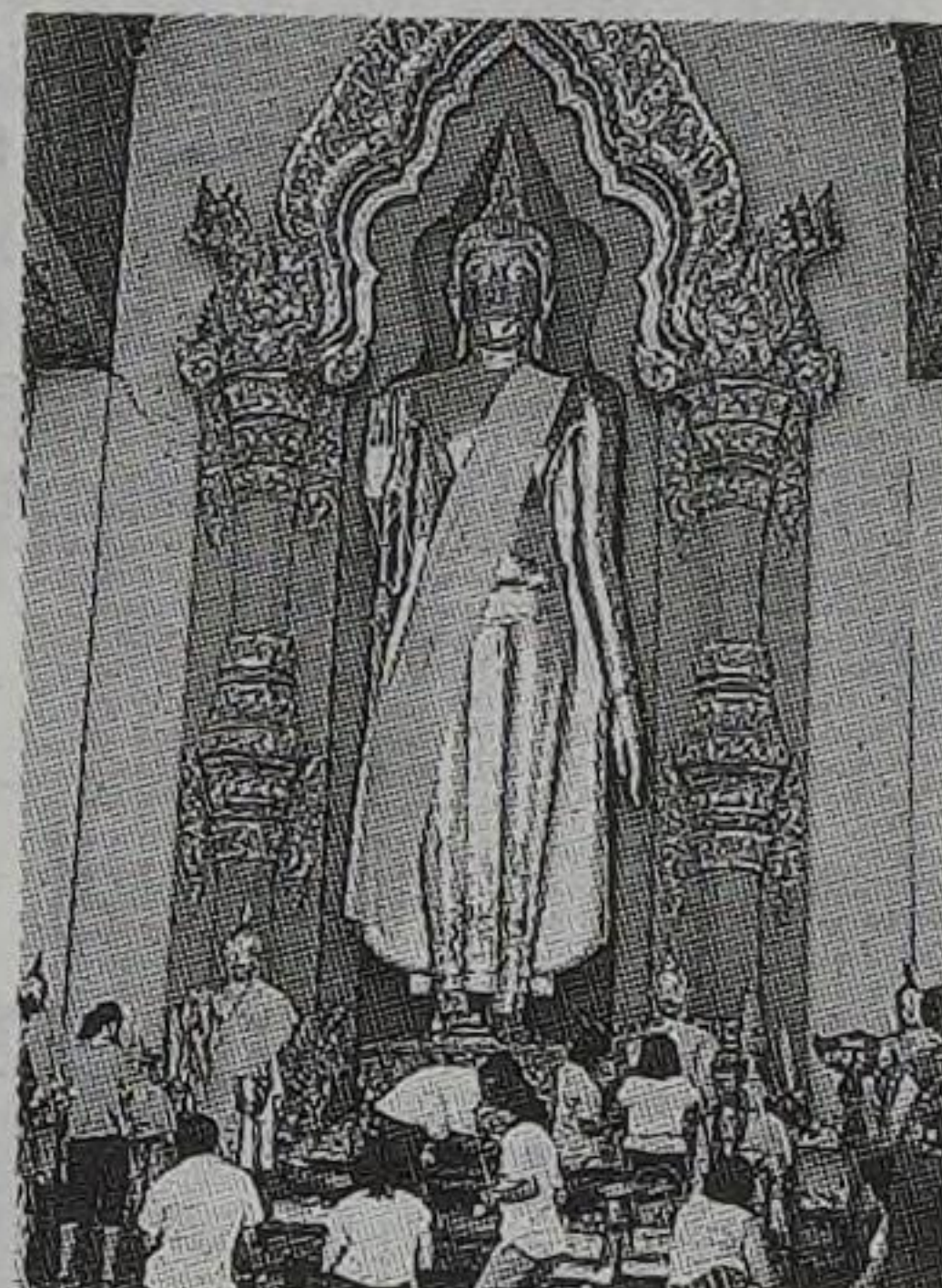
bud³ *n sl, esp. AmE* BUDDY (2)

Bu-da-pest /bjʊ:də'pest/ -'bʊdəpest/ the capital and largest city of Hungary, on the Danube river

Bud-dha /'bʊdə/ 'bʊ-, 'bʊz-/ **the Buddha** **1** (563?–?483 BC) the title given to Gautama Siddhartha, a wealthy man from N India who gave up all his possessions and family to teach the ideas on which the religion of Buddhism is based **2** a STATUE or picture of the Buddha

Bud-dhis-m /'bʊdɪzəm/ 'bʊ-, 'bʊz-/ *n* [U] a religion of east and central Asia growing out of the teaching of Buddha that one must become free of human desires in order to escape from suffering. Followers of Buddhism believe that one is born again after death, and whether the next life is better or worse depends on how good one is in the present —see also NIRVANA —**Buddhist** *n, adj* : a *Buddhist monk*

a Buddhist temple



bud-ding /'bʊdɪŋ/ *adj* [A no comp.] beginning to develop or become successful: *a budding poet*

bud-dy /'bʊdi/ *n* **1** *infml* a companion; partner: *He's my buddy.* | *We're good buddies.* **2** *sl, esp. AmE* (used as a form of address to a man, often in anger): *Get out of my way, buddy!* **3** a VOLUNTEER who acts as a friend and helper to a person with AIDS

buddy sys-tem /'bʊdi sɪstəm/ *n AmE* an arrangement in which one person is paired with another to help each other, esp. to keep each other safe: *The camp uses a buddy system for swimmers in the lake.*

budge /bʌdʒ/ *v* [I;T] to (cause to) move a little: *We tried to lift the rock but it wouldn't budge/we couldn't budge it.* | (fig.) *She wouldn't budge from her opinions.*

bud-ger-i-gar /'bʌdʒərɪgɑ:/ also **bud-gie** /'bʌdʒi/ *infml*— *n* a small bright-coloured bird of Australian origin, often kept as a caged bird

bud-get¹ /'bʌdʒɪt/ *n* **1** a plan of how to spend money, esp. during a particular period or for a particular purpose, taking account of what one will earn or receive and of what one will probably have to spend: *a family/weekly budget* | *The sales director is preparing the company's advertising budget for 1989.* | *It is important to balance one's budget.* (=make sure that no more money is being spent than is being earned) | *The new road was completed two months early and well within/below budget.* (=for less than the planned cost) **2** (*sometimes cap.*) an official statement made usu. once a year that gives details of what a government plans to spend, how it intends to collect the money needed, and so how much tax people will have to pay: *The President is seeking approval from*

Congress for his budget. | The Chancellor will present his budget to Parliament tomorrow. —see also BUDGET DAY **3** the amount of money stated in either type of plan: *Our research budget for this year is £10,000. | more cuts in the education budget — ~ary adj*

budget² *v* [I (for); T] to make plans for the careful use of (money, time, etc.) in a way that will bring most advantage: *She budgeted for (=planned to save enough money for) a holiday/buying a new car. | She has so many commitments she has to budget her time very carefully.*

budget³ *adj* [A] not needing a lot of money; cheap: *a budget holiday*

Budget Day /'·-·/ the day in March or April when the British Chancellor of the Exchequer makes the Budget speech in parliament. The Chancellor goes to parliament carrying the speech in a special red case. The speech is broadcast, and ordinary people take great interest in its effect on such things as the price of petrol, cigarettes, and alcohol.

Bud-wei-ser /'bʌdwaɪzə/ also **Bud** *infml*— *n* *tdmk* a kind of American beer

Bue-nos Ai-res /,bweɪnɒs 'aɪrɪz/ also /,bweɪnəs-/ the capital city of Argentina, an important international port and one of the largest cities in South America

buff¹ /bʌf/ *adj*, *n* [U] **1** (of) a pale yellowish-brown colour: *a buff envelope* **2** a soft leather of this colour made from cowskin: *a buff jacket* **3** *in the buff* *old-fash infml* with no clothes on

buff² *v* [T (UP)] to polish (metal) with something soft

buff³ *n infml* a person who is very interested in and knows a lot about the stated subject: *a film buff | a wine buff*

buf-fa-lo /'bʌfələʊ/ *n* -loes, -los, or -lo **1** a large Asian and African animal of the cattle family, with long flattish curved horns —see also WATER BUFFALO **2** also **bison**— a large wild cowlike animal formerly common in Europe and N America, with a very large head and shoulders covered with hair. In the US in the late 1800s and early 1900s buffaloes were hunted for their skins to make **buffalo robes** and were almost made EXTINCT. The smaller numbers of buffalo made life more difficult for the Native Americans, who ate buffalo meat, and this worsened the disagreement between the Native Americans and white men.

Buffalo Bill



Buffalo Bill /,·... '·-/ (1846–1917) a SCOUT (=information gatherer) for the US army, and also a buffalo hunter who toured with his own show in peacetime, “Buffalo Bill’s Wild West Show”. His real name was William Cody.

buff-er¹ /'bʌfə/ *n* **1** a spring put on the front and back of a railway engine or carriage to take the shock when it is connected to another carriage or hits the end of the track **2** a person or thing that protects someone or something or lessens a shock: *A little money can be a useful buffer in time of need.* **3** *a* a place in a computer’s memory to store information temporarily *b* a quantity of information stored in such a place

buffer² *v* [T] to act as a buffer to

buffer³ *n* *BrE infml* a foolish but perhaps likeable old man (esp. in the phrase **old buffer**)

buffer state /'·-·/ also **buffer**— *n* a smaller peaceful country between two larger ones, that reduces the likelihood of war between them

buffer stock /'·-·/ *n* [often *pl.*] a store of goods which is

bought or collected up when supplies are plentiful, and which is sold or given out when supplies are less plentiful

buffer zone /'·-·/ *n* a NEUTRAL area separating opposing forces or groups

buf-fet¹ /'bʌfɪt/ *v* [T often *pass.*] to strike forcefully or repeatedly: *We were buffeted by the wind and the rain. | We were buffeted about (=thrown from side to side) during the rough boat trip. —buffet n*

buf-fet² /'bʌfeɪ||bə'feɪ/ *n* **1** (a place where one can get) a meal consisting usu. of cold food, which people serve for themselves and eat standing up or sitting down nearby **2** *AmE* a SIDEBORD

buffet car /'·-·||'·-·/ *n* a carriage in a train where one can get drinks and light meals

buf-foon /bə'fu:n/ *n* a very stupid person, esp. one who is rough and noisy — **~ery n** [U]

bug¹ /bʌg/ *n* **1** [C] *esp. AmE* any small insect: *The sacks of rice were swarming with bugs.* **2** [C] *infml* a small living thing causing disease; GERM: *I’m not feeling well: I must have picked up a bug somewhere. | There’s a nasty bug going around.* **3** [C] a BEDBUG **4** [C] *sl* an apparatus for listening secretly to other people’s conversations: *The police searched the courtroom for bugs.* **5** [C] *infml* a fault or difficulty in a machine, system, computer PROGRAM, etc.: *to iron out all the bugs from the new process* —see also DEBUG **6** [the+S] *infml* an eager but sometimes not lasting interest in the stated thing: *bitten by the travel bug | the photography bug*

bug² *v* -gg- [T] *sl* **1** to fit with a secret listening apparatus: *The police have bugged his office.* **2** to annoy; IRRITATE: *It really bugs me when people come around without telephoning first.*

bug-a-boo /'bʌgəbu:/ *n* -boos *infml, esp. AmE* an imaginary cause of fear: *childish bugaboos*

bug-bear /'bʌgbɛə/ *n* something that causes anxiety or concern, perhaps without reason: *the bugbear of rising prices*

bug-eyed /,·-·-·/ *adj* having eyes that stick out or BULGE, e.g. because of lack of sleep

bug-ger¹ /'bʌgə/ *n* *sl, esp. BrE* **1** *taboo* an offensive or disagreeable person **2** *taboo* a SODOMITE **3** a person or animal: *The poor bugger broke his leg skiing. | You lucky buggers! | The cheeky little bugger!* **4** something that causes a lot of trouble or difficulty: *That job’s a real bugger! | a bugger of a job*

bugger² *v* [T] *BrE* **1** *taboo* or *law* to be guilty of SODOMY **2** *sl* (used for adding force to expressions of displeasure or surprise): *Bugger it! I’ve missed my train! | Bugger the lot of you! | Well bugger me—he’s done it!*

bugger about *phr v* *BrE taboo sl* **1** [I (with)] to behave in a silly or foolish way **2** [T] (**bugger** sbdy. **about**) to cause difficulties to: *I wish the tax office would stop bugging me about.*

bugger off *phr v* [I usu. imperative] *BrE taboo sl* to go away: *He told me to bugger off!*

bugger sthg. ↔ **up** *phr v* [T] *BrE taboo sl* to spoil; ruin: *Losing our luggage really bugged up our holiday.*

bugger all /,·-·-·/ *n* [U] *BrE taboo sl* nothing: *Like it or not, there’s bugger all we can do about it.*

bug-gered /'bʌgəd||-ərd/ *adj* [F] *BrE taboo sl* **1** extremely tired **2** very surprised or shocked: *Well, I’m bugged!*

bug-ger-y /'bʌgəri/ *n* [U] *BrE taboo or law* for SODOMY

bug-gy /'bʌgi/ *n* **1** *BrE* a light folding PUSHCHAIR with small wheels **2** a light carriage pulled by one horse **3** also **baby buggy** — *AmE* for PRAM

bug-house /'bʌghaus/ *n* *AmE sl, old fash* MENTAL HOSPITAL

bu-gle /'bju:ɡəl/ *n* a brass musical instrument, played by blowing, like a TRUMPET but shorter, used esp. for army calls — **gler n**

Bugs Bun-ny /,·-·-·/ a CARTOON rabbit who likes CARROTS and often uses the phrase “What’s up, Doc?”

Bu-ick /'bu:ɪk/ *n* *tdmk* an American car made by General Motors

build¹ /bɪld/ *v* **built** /bɪlt/ [I; T] **1** to make (a structure) by putting pieces together; CONSTRUCT: *That house is built of brick(s). | They’re building (new houses) in that area now. | to build roads/bridges/computers/aircraft | These birds build their nests out of straw. [+obj(i)+obj(d)] He*

built me a model ship out of wood. [+obj+for] *He built a model ship for me.* **2** [(UP)] to (cause to) develop; form: *Hard work builds (up) character.* | *The queue of people waiting for tickets is building fast.* | *to build a relationship/a business* | *efforts to build confidence between the two sides* **3** **build bridges** to try to establish a connection or friendly relationship, esp. between opposing groups or ideas **4** **-built** formed in a stated way: *a brick-built house* | *a well-built man*

build sthg. ↔ **in/into** sthg. *phr v* [T usu. pass.] **1** to make so as to be a fixed part, usu. of a room: *These cupboards are built in/built into the walls.* **2** to cause to be a part of something which cannot be separated or removed from it: *The rate of pay was built into her contract.* —see also **BUILT-IN**

build on *phr v* [T often pass.] **1** (**build** sthg. ↔ **on**) to make as an additional building: *This part of the hospital was built on later.* **2** (**build on** sthg.) to use as a base for further development: *In the new job she'll be able to build on her previous experience in marketing.* **3** also **build upon**— (**build** sthg. **on** sthg.) to base on: *The company's success is built on its very popular home computers.* | *His argument is built on facts.* **4** (**build on** sthg.) to depend on; **BANK on**

build up *phr v* **1** [I;T (**build** sthg. ↔ **up**)] to (cause to) increase, develop, or become gradually larger: *to build up one's strength again after an illness* | *The clouds are building up.* | *He has built up a good business over the years.* | *Traffic going out of the city is already building up.* **2** [T] (**build** sbdy./sthg. ↔ **up**) to praise so as to influence the opinion of others; **PROMOTE** (3): *The singer has been built up into a great success.* —see also **BUILDUP**, **BUILT-UP**

build² *n* [C;U] shape and size, esp. of the human body: *a powerful build* | *My brother and I are of the same build.* —see **BODY** (USAGE)

builder /'bɪldə/ *n* **1** || also **building contractor** *AmE* — a person whose job is building things, esp. houses: *a firm of local builders* **2** (*in comb.*) something that helps to form or develop a quality or condition: *Hard work is a great character-builder.*

builders' merchant /'bɪldəz' mɜːtʃənt/ *n* *BrE* a person who owns or works in a place (**builders' merchant's**) where building materials such as bricks, cement, sand, etc. are sold

building /'bɪldɪŋ/ *n* **1** [C] a structure, usu. with a roof and walls, that is intended to stay in one place and not to be taken down again: *Houses and churches are buildings.* | *The World Trade Center is one of the world's tallest buildings.* **2** [U] the process or business of making buildings: *the building industry*

building block /'bɪldɪŋ blɒk/ *n* **1** blocks of wood or plastic used by young children to play games, esp. by placing one on top of another **2** (*fig.*) any of the pieces out of which something is built: *Atoms are the building blocks of the universe.*

building contractor /'bɪldɪŋ kɒn'trɒktər/ *n* a builder (1)

building site /'bɪldɪŋ saɪt/ *n* a piece of ground where a building is being built

building society /'bɪldɪŋ sə'saɪəti/ *BrE* || **savings and loan association** *AmE*— *n* a business organization into which people pay money in order to save it and gain interest, and which lends money to people who want to buy houses

build-up /'bɪld-ʌp/ *n* **1** [(of, in)] a process of increasing: *the buildup of our military forces/of traffic on the road/of tension in the region* **2** favourable public attention or praise in advance: *Despite the big buildup, the play was a flop.* —see also **BUILD up**

built-in /'bɪlt-ɪn/ *adj* forming a part of something that cannot be separated from it: *a built-in disadvantage of the system* | *a built-in cupboard* —see also **BUILD in**

built-up /'bɪlt-ʌp/ *adj* covered with buildings: *a built-up area*

bulb /bʌlb/ *n* **1** a round root of certain plants: *a tulip bulb* **2** any object of this shape, esp. (the glass part of) an electric lamp that gives out light: *a 100-watt light bulb* | *the bulb of a thermometer*

bulbous /'bʌlbəs/ *adj* often *derog* shaped like a bulb; fat and round: *a bulbous nose*

Bul-ga-ri-a /bʌl'geəriə/ a country in SE Europe, bordered by the Black Sea, Romania, Yugoslavia, and Greece; capital Sofia; population 9,004,000 (1989) —**rian** *n*, *adj*

bulge¹ /bʌldʒ/ *n* **1** a swelling of a surface caused by pressure from inside or below: *The apple made a bulge in his pocket.* **2** a sudden unusual increase in quantity, which does not last: *The bulge in the birthrate after the war made more schools necessary.* **bulgy** *adj* **bulginess** *n* [U]

bulge² *v* [I (**with**, **OUT**)] to swell or curve outwards: *His stomach bulged (out).* | *His pockets were bulging with presents.* | (*fig.*) *a bulging bank account* (=with a lot of money in it)

Bulge see **BATTLE OF THE BULGE**

bul-gur /'bʌlgə/ *n* [U] a form of wheat which has been cooked, cracked, and dried

bu-lim-i-a /bjʊ:'lɪmiə/ *n* [U] *tech* an illness in which there is a great and uncontrollable desire to eat. It is most often young women who suffer from it and they usu. **VOMIT** after eating too much in order not to gain weight. —see **EATING DISORDER**

bulk¹ /bʌlk/ *n* **1** [U] largeness of size, shape, or mass: *It was difficult to move, not because of its weight but because of its bulk.* **2** [C] an unusually large, fat, or shapeless body: *The elephant lowered its great bulk.* **3** [*the*+S (*of*)] the main or largest part: *The bulk of the work has already been done.* | *The publishing sector provided the bulk of the company's profits.* **4** **in bulk** in large quantities and not packed in separate containers: *to buy/sell in bulk* | *a tanker carrying milk in bulk*

bulk² *adj* [A] (of buying and selling) in large quantities: *a bulk purchase of grain* | *a bulk order*

bulk³ *v* **bulk large** to appear important or play an important part: *The threat of economic crisis is beginning to bulk large in the government's thinking.*

bulk (sthg. ↔) **out** also **bulk up**— *phr v* [I;T] to (cause to) swell or to be or seem thicker or fuller: *She uses gel to bulk her hair out.*

bulk-head /'bʌlkhed/ *n* [*often pl.*] a wall which divides a ship, **TUNNEL**, spacecraft, etc. into separate parts, so that, if one part is damaged, water or air will not pass through

bulk mail /'bʌlk meɪl/ *n* [U] *AmE* the sending of letters, esp. advertisements, to many people for a smaller charge than usual

bulk-y /'bʌlki/ *adj* **1** having bulk, esp. if large of its kind or rather fat: *a bulky parcel* **2** having great size or mass in comparison with weight: *a bulky woollen sweater* —**ily** *adv* —**iness** *n* [U]

bull



bull¹ /bʊl/ *n* **1** the adult male form of cattle, supposed to be fierce and hard to control, kept on farms to be the parent of young cattle: (*fig.*) *a great bull of a man* (=big and strong) —compare **BULLOCK**; see also **BELLOW** **2** the male of certain other large land or sea animals: *a bull elephant* —compare **COW**¹ (2) **3** a person who buys business shares or goods in expectation of a price rise or who acts to cause such a rise: *a bull market* (=in which prices are rising) —compare **BEAR**¹ (2) **4** *infml* for **BULL'S-EYE** (1) **5** **a bull in a china shop** *infml* a rough and careless person in a place where skill and care are needed: *He's like a bull in a china shop, always knocking things over.* **6** **take the bull by the horns** *infml* to face difficulties fearlessly and with determination

bull² *n* an official letter from the **POPE** (=the head of the Roman Catholic Church)

bull³ *n*, *interj* [U] *sl* foolish talk; nonsense: *That's a load/lot of bull!* —see also **shoot the bull** (**SHOOT**¹)

Bull, John see JOHN BULL

bull-dog /'bʊldɒg/-dɔːg/ *n* a fierce dog of English origin with a short neck and short thick legs set far apart, often regarded as having great determination. The bulldog is sometimes used as a SYMBOL of the British character.

bulldog clip /'...-/ *BrE* || **elephant clip** *AmE* *n* a small metal apparatus with a spring, used like a PAPER CLIP

Bulldog Drummond /'bʊldɒg 'drʌmənd/-dɔːg-/ a character, Hugh "Bulldog" Drummond, in stories by Sapper (Herman McNeile, 1888–1937). He was an ugly but likeable British ex-army officer chasing Carl Peterson, an international criminal.

bull-doze /'bʊldəʊz/ *v* [T] **1** to force (objects, earth, etc.) out of the way with a bulldozer in order to form a level surface: *to bulldoze the ground before building* **2** [+obj+adv/prep] to force insensitively, without regard for the feelings or opinions of others: *Despite public opposition, he bulldozed his plan through Parliament.* | *They bulldozed her into agreeing.*

bull-dozer /'bʊldəʊzə/ *n* a powerful machine used for pushing heavy objects, earth, etc., out of the way when a level surface is needed

bul-let /'bʊlɪt/ *n* a type of shot fired from a fairly small gun, usu. longer than it is broad and with a rounded or pointed end: *The bodies of the hostages were found riddled with bullets.* | *Police fired rubber bullets into the crowd.* | *a bullet wound* | *A bullet-proof car/vest stops bullets from passing through it.* —see picture at GUN; see also **bite the bullet** (BITE¹ (10)), and compare SHELL¹ (2), SHOT¹ (5)

bullet-head-ed /'...-'...-/ *adj* *derog* (esp. of a person) having a small round head

bul-le-tin /'bʊlətɪn/ *n* **1** a short usu. official notice or news report intended to be made public without delay: *Here is the latest bulletin about the President's health.* | *to read a news bulletin on television* **2** a short printed newspaper, esp. one produced by an organization or club: *the company's quarterly bulletin*

bulletin board /'...-/ *n* *esp. AmE* for NOTICE BOARD

bull-fight /'bʊlfait/ *n* a form of public entertainment in Spain, Portugal, and Latin America, in which men ceremonially excite, fight, and often kill bulls. Many people now think that bullfights are cruel for the animals. — *er n* — *ing n* [U]

bull-finch /'bʊl,fɪntʃ/ *n* a small European songbird with a bright reddish breast and a strong rounded beak

bull-frog /'bʊlfrɒg/-frɔːg, -frɔːg/ *n* a large-headed American FROG that makes a loud noise (CROAK²)

bull-head-ed /'bʊl'hedɪd-/ *adj* *often derog* (of a person) going determinedly but stupidly or thoughtlessly after what one wants — *ly adv* — *ness n* [U]

bull-horn /'bʊlhɔːn/-hɔːrn/ *n* *AmE* an instrument shaped like a widening tube which is powered electrically and held to the mouth to make the sound of a voice louder —compare MEGAPHONE

bul-lion /'bʊljən/ *n* [U] bars of gold or silver: *gold bullion*

bul-lish /'bʊlɪʃ/ *adj* **1** *tech* marked by, tending to cause, or hopeful of rising prices (as in a STOCK EXCHANGE): *There was a bullish trend in the market.* —opposite **bear-ish** **2** showing confidence about the future; full of OPTIMISM: *He is very bullish about the prospects for his business.* — *ly adv* — *ness n* [U]

bull-necked /'bʊl'nekt-/ *adj* (of a person) with a short and very thick neck

bul-lock /'bʊlək/ *n* a male animal of the cattle family which cannot breed; OX (1) —compare BULL¹, HEIFER, STEER²

bull pen /'...-/ *n* **1** the area in a BASEBALL field which is used by PITCHERS² to get ready to play **2** the PITCHERS² of a BASEBALL team: *The Dodgers have a strong bull pen.*

bull-ring /'bʊl,rɪŋ/ *n* an ARENA where BULLFIGHTS are held, surrounded by rows of seats

Bull Run /'...-/ the place in NE Virginia in the US where there were two important battles in the American Civil War which the Union forces lost to Confederate forces. Many men were killed or hurt in these battles.

bull ses-sion /'...-/ *n* *AmE infml* a time when a group of people get together to talk

bull's-eye /'...-/ *n* **1** also **bull** *infml*— the circular centre of a TARGET that people try to hit when shooting or playing DARTS: *to score a bull's-eye* (=hit this centre) | (fig.)

Your last remark really hit the bull's-eye: it was exactly right. **2** *BrE* a large hard round sweet tasting of PEPPERMINT

bull-shit¹ /'bʊlʃɪt/ *n, interj* [U] *taboo sl* foolish talk; nonsense

bullshit² *v* -tt- [I;T] *taboo sl* to talk nonsense, esp. confidently in order to deceive, persuade, or get admiration

bull ter-ri-er /'...-/ *n* a short-haired dog of English origin which is a mixture of BULLDOG and TERRIER, bred for fighting —see also PIT BULL TERRIER

bul-ly¹ /'bʊli/ *n* a person, esp. a schoolboy or schoolgirl, who hurts or intentionally frightens weaker people

bully² *v* [T (into)] to act like a bully towards, often with the intention of forcing someone to do something: *He bullies all the other little boys in the playground.* | *I wanted to stay at home but they bullied me into going.*

bully off *phr v* [I] to start a game of HOCKEY —**bully-off** /'...-/ *n*

bully³ *adj* **bully for you/him, etc.** *humor sl* (used to express approval, often insincerely, of what someone has done)

bully beef /'...-/ *n* [U] *BrE* CORNED BEEF, esp. as used in the army

bul-ly-boy /'bʊlibɔɪ/ *n* *BrE infml* a rough man who behaves in a threatening way: *Bullyboy tactics won't work on me—I'm not scared.*

bul-rush, bullrush /'bʊlɹʌʃ/ also **cattail** *AmE*— *n* a tall grasslike waterside plant

bul-wark /'bʊlwɜːk/-wɜːk/ *n* **1** [often *pl.*] a strong wall built for defence, often made of earth: (fig.) *Our people's support is a bulwark against the enemy.* **2** also **bulwarks** *pl.*— the wall round the edge of a ship

bum¹ /bʌm/ *n* *sl, esp. BrE* the part of the body on which a person sits; BUTTOCKS

bum² *n* *AmE & AustrE derog sl* **1** [C] a wandering person who lives by begging; TRAMP² **2** [the+S] *AustrE* the life of wandering and begging: *John lost his job and went on the bum.* **3** [C] someone who spends a lot of time on the stated activity or amusement: *a beach bum* **4** [C] someone who is considered worthless, lazy, or unable to do their job

bum³ *v* -mm- [T (off)] *sl* to get by begging; SCROUNGE: *Can I bum a cigarette (off you)?*

bum around/about *phr v* *sl* **1** [I] to spend time lazily without any clear purpose: *I didn't do anything last summer; I just bumed around.* **2** [I;T (=bum around/about sthg.)] to spend time travelling for amusement: *He's been bumming around (on) the continent for a few months.*

bum⁴ *adj* [A] *sl* bad or worthless: *He gave me some bum advice about buying a car.*

bum-ble /'bʌmbəl/ *v* [I] *sl* **1** [(ON, about)] *esp. BrE* to speak so that the words are hard to hear clearly: *He kept bumbling on about his operation, but I didn't really understand all the details.* **2** [(ABOUT, AROUND)] to move or behave in an awkward or unskilful way: *bumbling incompetence*

bum-ble-bee /'bʌmbəlbiː/ *n* a large hairy bee which makes a loud noise when flying

bumf, bumph /bʌmf/ *n* [U] *BrE derog sl* written material, often printed information or advertisements, that is uninteresting, unnecessary, or unwanted

bum-mer /'bʌmə/ *n* *infml* an unpleasant experience which makes one sad: *It was a real bummer standing in line for so long and still not getting tickets to the concert.*

bump¹ /bʌmp/ *v* **1** [I+adv/prep;T] to hit or knock against (something, esp. something solid and heavy) with force or violence: *The car bumped the tree.* | *The ball bumped down the stairs.* | *The two cars bumped into each other.* | *I bumped my knee against/on the table.* **2** [I+adv/prep] to move along in an uneven way, like a wheeled vehicle going over bumps: *The cart bumped along the track.* | (fig.) *The circulation of the magazine has been bumping along for some time at around 30,000.* **3** **things that go bump in the night** *humor* GHOSTS, MONSTERS, etc. that make strange noises at night

bump into sbdy. *phr v* [T] *infml* to meet by chance: *I bumped into an old college friend in the restaurant.*

bump sbdy. ↔ **off** *phr v* [T] *sl* to kill; murder

bump sthg. ↔ **up** *phr v* [T] *infml* to increase, esp. to

a desired level: *You need a good result to bump up your average.* | *to bump up production/the price*

bump² *n* 1 (the sound of) a sudden forceful blow, like something heavy hitting a hard surface: *We heard a bump in the next room.* | *He fell off the bed and landed on the floor with a bump.* 2 a raised round swelling, often caused by a blow: *a bump on his knee* 3 a raised uneven area on a surface: *She had to drive slowly because of the bumps in the road.*

bump-er¹ /'bʌmpə/ *n* 1 a bar fixed on the front or back of a car to protect the car when it knocks against anything: *The traffic was bumper-to-bumper* (=very close together) *all the way home.* —see picture at CAR 2 *AmE* for BUFFER¹ (1)

bumper² *adj* [A] of unusually large size or amount: *a bumper crop/harvest/edition/pay increase*

bumper³ *n* *old use* a full cup or glass: *a bumper of ale*

bumper car /'..../ *n* [*usu. pl.*] *esp. AmE* a small electric car which people drive while trying to hit other cars in an enclosed space in an AMUSEMENT PARK

bumper stick-er /'..../ *n* *AmE* a small sign on the bumper¹ (1) of a car, with a humorous, political, or religious message —compare CAR STICKER

bump-kin /'bʌmpkɪn/ **country bumpkin** *n* *derog infml* an awkward foolish person from the country (rather than the city)

bump-tious /'bʌmpʃəs/ *adj* *derog* noisily showing one's high opinion of oneself; CONCEITED: *a bumptious young man* | *her bumptious manner* —~ly *adv* —~ness *n* [U]

bumpy /'bʌmpi/ *adj* with many BUMPS² (3); uneven: *a bumpy ride* | (fig.) *I think we've got a bumpy road* (a period of difficulties) *ahead of us.* —ily *adv* —iness *n* [U]

bun /bʌn/ *n* 1 *BrE* a small round sweet cake 2 *AmE* a small round kind of bread, usu. plain but sometimes sweetened 3 a mass of hair twisted and fastened into a tight round shape at the back of the head: *She wears her hair in a bun.* 4 *have a 'bun in the oven* *old-fash humor* to be PREGNANT

bunch¹ /bʌntʃ/ *n* [(of)] 1 a number of things (usu. small and of the same kind) fastened, held, or growing together at one point: *a bunch of flowers/grapes/keys* | *The little girl wears her hair in bunches.* (=tied at each side of the back of the head) 2 [+sing./pl. v] *infml* a group: *A bunch of girls was/were sitting on the grass.* | *My students are quite a nice bunch.* | *My friend John is the pick/the best of the bunch.* 3 *a bunch of fives* *BrE sl* an act of hitting someone with one's closed hand; PUNCH

bunch² *v* [I;T (UP, TOGETHER)] to (cause to) form into one or more bunches or close groups: *The captain told the players not to bunch (up) together, but to spread out over the field.* | *This cloth bunches up.* (=tends to gather into folds) | *Traffic often bunches on big highways.* | *The children were all bunched together in the corner of the room.*

bund /bʌnd/ *n* *BrE* a high man-made bank of earth built to hide something such as ugly industrial buildings, to limit noise from a MOTORWAY, or to protect from enemy attack

Bun-des-bank /'bʌndəz,bæŋk/ [*the*] the German central bank

bun-dle¹ /'bʌndl/ *n* 1 [C (of)] a number of articles tied, fastened, or held together, usu. across the middle: *a bundle of sticks* | *She tied up her few belongings into a bundle.* 2 [S] *sl* a large sum of money: *He must have made a bundle out of selling that house.* 3 *infml* a bundle of in a state of: *I'm so anxious I'm just a bundle of nerves.* (=extremely nervous) | *She's not exactly a bundle of fun/laughs.* (=not at all amusing to be with)

bundle² *v* 1 [I + *adv/prep*; T + *obj* + *adv/prep*] to (cause to) move or hurry in a rather quick and rough manner: *They arrested a man and bundled him into a car.* | *They bundled the children off to school.* | *We all bundled into the taxi.* 2 [T + *obj* + *adv/prep*] to put together or store hastily and untidily: *She bundled her clothes into a bag.*

bundle (sbdy.) *up phr v* [I;T] to dress warmly: *She bundled (herself) up in several warm sweaters before going out into the freezing cold.*

Bundt pan /'bʌnt pæn/ *n* *tdmk* a ring-like baking pan with high sides and a hole in the middle, used for baking cakes: *Pour the batter into a greased Bundt pan.* | *a Bundt cake* (a cake baked in a Bundt pan)

bung¹ /bʌŋ/ *n* a round piece of rubber, wood, or other material used to close the hole in a container —see picture at LABORATORY

bung² *v* [T] *BrE infml* to put, push, or throw, esp. roughly: *He picked up a stone and bunged it over the fence.* [+*obj*(i) +*obj*(d)] *Bung me a cigarette, will you?*

bung sthg. ↔ *up phr v* [T often *pass.*] *BrE infml* to block; stop up: *to bung up a hole* | *My nose is bunged up with a cold.*

bun-ga-low /'bʌŋɡələʊ/ *n* 1 *BrE* a house which is all on ground level. In Britain, many old people live in bungalows. 2 *AmE* a small house which is usu. all on ground level —see HOUSE (USAGE), and see picture at HOUSE

bun-gee jump-ing /'bʌndʒiː ,dʒʌmpɪŋ/ *n* [U] the sport of jumping off high buildings etc attached to a length of special rope that stretches, so that you do not hurt yourself as you fall

bung-hole /'bʌŋhəʊl/ *n* a hole for emptying or filling a barrel

bun-gle /'bʌŋɡəl/ *v* [T] to do badly; BOTCH: *to bungle a job* —bungle *n* —bungler *n*

bun-ion /'bʌnjən/ *n* a painful red swelling on the first joint of the big toe

bunk¹ /bʌŋk/ *n* 1 a narrow bed that is usu. fixed to the wall (as on a ship or train) 2 also **bunk bed** /'..../ — either of a pair of beds that are placed one above the other —see picture at BED

bunk² *v* [I+*adv/prep*, esp. DOWN] *infml* to sleep; have one's sleeping-place: *She bunked (down) with some friends/on a sofa for the night.*

bunk³ *n* [U] *sl* nonsense; BUNKUM: *That's a load of bunk.*

bunk⁴ *n* *do a bunk* *BrE sl* to run away; leave, esp. when one should not

bunk⁵ *v*

bunk off *phr v* [I] *BrE sl* 1 to leave in a hurry or when one should not 2 to stay away from school without permission; play TRUANT

bun-ker /'bʌŋkə/ *n* 1 a place for storing coal, esp. on a ship or outside a house 2 a strongly built shelter for soldiers, esp. one built mainly underground with openings for guns 3 *BrE* || **trap, sand trap** *AmE*— (in GOLF) a place dug out and filled with sand, from which it is hard to hit the ball —see picture at GOLF

Bunker, Ar-chie /'ɑːtʃi||'ɑːr-/ a character in the popular American television programme of the 1970s, *All in the Family*. He was working class and very PREJUDICED (=he did not like people different from himself).

bunk-house /'bʌŋkhaʊs/ *n* -houses /,haʊzɪz/ a building where workers sleep, for those who have to live at their place of work

bun-kum /'bʌŋkəm/ *n* [U] *sl* foolish talk; nonsense

bunk-up /'..../ *n* [*usu. sing.*] *BrE infml* a push up from below to help someone climbing: *I want to have a look over the wall — can you give me a bunk-up?*

bun-ny /'bʌni/ also **bunny rab-bit** /'..../ *n* (used esp. by or to children) a rabbit

bunny girl /'..../ *n* a waitress, esp. in a night club, who wears a special COSTUME with long ears and a furry tail like a rabbit's

Bun-sen burn-er /,bʌnsən 'bɜːnə/||-ɜːr/ also **Bunsen**— *n* a gas apparatus that produces a hot smokeless flame for use in practical scientific work —see picture at LABORATORY

bunt /bʌnt/ *n* a deliberately short hit in the game of BASEBALL —bunt *v* [I]: *He bunted toward third base.*

Bun-ter /'bʌntə/ *n*, **Billy** the main character in children's stories by Frank Richards about a British PUBLIC SCHOOL. Bunter is a fat, stupid boy who loves eating and is always getting into trouble: *a Billy Bunterish fellow*

bun-ting /'bʌntɪŋ/ *n* [U] small paper or cloth flags, tied on a string and used as decorations for special occasions

Bun-ty /'banti/ a British COMIC (=magazine for children) which is intended for young girls

Buñ-u-el /'bʊnjuəl/, **Lu-is** /luː'ɪz/ (1900–83) a Spanish film director known for his dreamlike images and humorous attacks on the Catholic church and middle-class moral values. His films include *Le Charme Discret De La Bourgeoisie* and *Cet Obscur Objet Du Désir*.

Bun-yan /'bʌnjən/, **John** (1628–88) an English PREACHER who wrote *The Pilgrim's Progress* while he was in prison for his beliefs

Bunyan, Paul /pɔːl/ according to old stories, a GIANT LUMBERJACK (=someone whose job is cutting down trees) from the north woods of the US and Canada who travelled with a blue ox named Babe

buoy¹ /bɔɪ/ || 'bʊɪ, bɔɪ/ *n* a floating object fastened to the bottom of the sea, e.g. to show ships where there are rocks —see also LIFE BUOY

buoy² *v* [T (UP) *usu. pass.*] **1** to keep floating: *buoyed by the water* **2** to support; keep high: *profits buoyed (up) by a steady increase in demand* **3** to raise the spirits of; make confident: *They were buoyed up by hopes of success.*

buoy-an-cy /'bɔɪənsi/ || 'bɔɪənsi, 'bʊɪənsi/ *n* [U] **1** the tendency of an object to float, or to rise when pushed down into a liquid: *the buoyancy of light wood* **2** the power of a liquid to make an object float: *the buoyancy of water* **3** the ability to recover quickly from disappointment, bad news, etc. **4** the ability, e.g. of prices or business activity, to remain or return quickly to a high level after a period of difficulty: *the buoyancy of the American market*

buoy-ant /'bɔɪənt/ || 'bɔɪənt, 'bʊɪənt/ *adj* showing buoyancy: *Cork is a very buoyant material.* | *a buoyant mood* | *a buoyant economy/stockmarket* — *~ly adv*

BUPA /'bʊpə, 'bjuː-/ British United Provident Association; a company which sells private health insurance and runs its own hospitals outside the National Health Service: *Are you in* (=insured by) *BUPA?*

bur /bɜːr/ *n* a BURR²

Bur-ber-ry /'bɜːrbəri/ || 'bɜːrbəri, -beri/ *n tdmk* an expensive kind of RAINCOAT, made from a special cloth with the same name

bur-ble /'bɜːbəl/ || 'bɜːr-/ also **bubble** *AmE—v* **1** [I] to make a sound like a stream flowing over stones **2** [I (ON, AWAY);T] to talk or say quickly but foolishly or in a way that is hard to hear clearly: *He would burble on/burble away for hours about his stamp collection.* | *She quickly burbled her thanks and left the room.*

burbs /bɜːbz/ || 'bɜːrbz/ *n* [*the*] *AmE infml* for SUBURBS: *I know, you'll just get married and live in the burbs like everybody else!*

bur-den¹ /'bɜːdn/ || -ɜːr-/ *n fml* **1** [C] something that is carried; a load: *a heavy burden* —see also BEAST OF BURDEN **2** [C] a heavy duty or responsibility which is hard to bear: *divorced parents who have to bear/carry the burden of maintaining two households* | *People on high incomes face a huge tax burden.* | *the burdens of high office* **3** [*the*+S (of)] the main subject or point: *The burden of his complaint was that...*

burden² *v* [T (with)] to load or trouble: *I will not burden you with a lengthy account of what happened.* | *burdened with heavy taxation* —see also UNBURDEN

burden of proof /'bɜːn əv 'pruːf/ *n* [*the*+S] the duty or responsibility of proving something: *The burden of proof lies with the person who makes the charge.*

bur-den-some /'bɜːdn səm/ || 'bɜːr-/ *adj fml* causing or being a burden; ONEROUS: *burdensome duties*

bu-reau /'bjʊərəʊ/ *n* **bureaux** /'bjʊərəʊz/ **1** *BrE* a large desk or writing-table with a wooden cover which shuts or slides over the top to close it **2** *AmE* for CHEST OF DRAWERS **3** an office or organization that collects and/or provides facts: *an information bureau* **4** *esp. AmE* a division of a government department

bu-reau-cra-cy /bjʊə'rɒkrəsi, -'rɑː-/ *n usu. derog* **1** [S] a group of government, business, or other officials who are appointed rather than elected: *the Civil Service bureaucracy* **2** [C;U] (a system of) government by such officials **3** [U] a system of doing things officially which is annoyingly and unnecessarily difficult to understand or deal with and *usu. ineffective*: *the company bureaucracy*

bu-reau-crat /'bjʊərəkræt/ *n usu. derog* a member of a bureaucracy

bu-reau-crat-ic /'bjʊərə'krætɪk/ *adj usu. derog* of or like a bureaucracy or a bureaucrat: *bureaucratic rules* | *In this company you have to go through complex bureaucratic procedures just to get a new pencil.* — *~ally adv*

bureau de change /'bjʊərəʊ də 'ʃɒndʒ/ || -'ʃændʒ/ *n Fr* an office or shop where people can change foreign money into local money or change local money into foreign money

Bureau of In-di-an Af-fairs /'bɪəʊ ɒf 'ɪndiən ə'feɪəz/ || also **BIA**— *n* [*the*] a US government organization which is concerned with the WELFARE and education of Native Americans and with other legal matters concerning RESERVATIONS (areas set aside for Native Americans to live on)

bur-geon /'bɜːdʒən/ || 'bɜːr-/ *v* [I] *fml* to grow or develop quickly: *the burgeoning home computer industry*

burg-er /'bɜːgə/ || 'bɜːr-/ *n* **1** a round flat cake mainly of meat, often contained in a bread roll; a HAMBURGER **2** **-burger**: **a** a HAMBURGER in which the meat is covered with the stated substance: *a cheeseburger* **b** something like a HAMBURGER, but made of a different substance: *a nutburger/a soyaburger*

burger bar /'bɜːr bɑː/ || *BrE n* a type of restaurant selling burgers, where food is ordered from a bar

Burger King /'bɜːr ɪŋ/ *n* a restaurant in the US and some other countries which serves FAST FOOD, esp. HAMBURGERS

bur-gess /'bɜːdʒɪs/ || 'bɜːr-/ *n old use or pomp* a free man of a city or country, having the right to elect representatives to the government

Burgess, Anthony (1917–93) a English writer and CRITIC, best known for his NOVELS *A Clockwork Orange* and *Earthly Powers*

Burgess, Guy (1911–63) an Englishman who was a SPY for the former Soviet Union and escaped there in 1951 —see also Anthony BLUNT, Donald MACLEAN, Kim PHILBY

burgh /'bʌrə/ || 'bɜːrg, 'bʌrəʊ/ *n ScotE* for BOROUGH

bur-gher /'bɜːgə/ || 'bɜːr-/ *n often humor* a person who lives in a particular town: *Their wild behaviour outraged the respectable burghers of Oxford.*

bur-glar /'bɜːglə/ || 'bɜːr-/ *n* a thief who breaks into houses, shops, etc. with the intention of stealing, esp. during the night. Humorous drawings of burglars show them wearing striped (STRIPE) jumpers and carrying a large bag marked SWAG (=things they have stolen) —see also CAT BURGLAR; compare HOUSEBREAKER, ROBBER, THIEF

burglar a-larm /'bɜːglə ɑːlɜːm/ *n* an apparatus that makes a loud warning noise, or operates a warning system at a police station, etc., when a thief breaks into a building

bur-glar-ize /'bɜːgləraɪz/ || 'bɜːr-/ *v AmE* for BURGLE

bur-glar-y /'bɜːgləri/ || 'bɜːr-/ *n* [C;U] (an example of) the crime of entering a building (esp. a home) by force with the intention of stealing

bur-gle /'bɜːgəl/ || 'bɜːr-/ also **burglarize** *AmE—v* [T] to break into a building and steal from (it or the people in it): *Their house was burgled while they were away on holiday.*

Bur-gun-dy /'bɜːgəndi/ || 'bɜːr-/ *n* [U] white or red wine of the Burgundy area of France

bur-i-al /'beriəl/ *n* [C;U] the act or ceremony of putting a dead body into a grave: *a burial site/ground*

burk /bɜːk/ || 'bɜːrk/ *n* a BERK

Burke /bɜːk/ || 'bɜːrk/, **Ed-mund** /'edmænd/ (1729–97) a British Whig politician, born in Dublin, Ireland. He wrote many works of political THEORY and was also a great speaker.

Burke's Peer-age /'bɜːk s 'piːəʒ/ *n* a book which lists the names and details of all the families with titles in Britain: *Look them up in Burke's Peerage.*

Bur-ki-na Fa-so /bʊə'kiːnə 'fæsəʊ/ || 'bʊər-/ a country in W Africa, N of Côte d'Ivoire; capital Ouagadougou; population 8,763,000 (1989). The former name of the country was **Upper Volta**.

bur-lap /'bɜːləp/ || 'bɜːr-/ *n* [U] *AmE* for HESSIAN

bur-lesque¹ /'bɜː'lesk/ || 'bɜːr-/ *n* **1** [C;U] speech, acting, or writing in which a serious subject is made to seem foolish or an unimportant subject is treated solemnly as a joke: *a burlesque of a famous poem* **2** [U] (formerly in



the US) **VARIETY** (4), usu. including **STRIPTease**

burlesque² *v* [T] to cause to appear amusing by means of burlesque: *to burlesque a writer/a poem*

bur-ly /'bɜːli/ 'bɜːrli/ *adj* (of a person) strongly and heavily built: *a big burly construction worker* — **liness** *n* [U]

Bur-ma /'bɜːmə/ 'bɜːr-/ the former name of **MYANMAR**

Burma Road /ɪˌˌ/ *n* a road leading from the country formerly called Burma to China which was used during the Second World War to supply Allied forces in China

burn¹ /bɜːn/ 'bɜːrn/ *v* **burnt** /bɜːnt/ 'bɜːrnt/ or **burned** **1** [I] (esp. of wood, coal, paper, etc.) to give out heat, light, and gases: *Is the fire still burning?* | *This type of coal does not burn very easily.* | *a burning match* **2** [I;T] to (cause to) be on fire, esp. to destroy or be destroyed by fire: *The house is burning — call the fire brigade!* | *I burnt all his old letters.* | *The house was burnt to ashes/burnt to the ground.* (=completely destroyed by fire) | *Joan of Arc was burnt at the stake.* (=killed by burning) | (fig.) *That £100 is burning a hole in his pocket.* (=he wants to spend it) **3** [I;T] to (cause to) be hurt or damaged, by fire or heat: *I've burnt my hand.* | *The toast has burnt.* | *burnt by the sun* | *You burnt a hole in my skirt with your cigarette.* **4** [I] to produce light; shine: *a light burning in the window* **5** [T] to use for power, heating, or lighting: *lamps that burn oil* | *a coal-burning ship* **6** [T] (of a chemical) to damage or destroy; **CORRODE**: *The technician's overalls were burnt by acid.* **7** [I] to produce or experience an unpleasant hot feeling: *I'm afraid the ointment will burn a bit.* | *My ears were burning after being out in the cold wind.* **8** [I (with) esp. in progressive forms] to experience a very strong feeling: *burning with anger/desire* [+to-v] *She is burning to tell you the news.* **9** [I+adv/prep] to travel at high speed: *We burned up the motorway.* | *supersonic planes burning through the stratosphere* **10** [T] to lose a lot of money, esp. in a business deal: *A lot of people got burned buying junk bonds.* **11** [T] to lose confidence in another person because they have done something to hurt you: *He's been burned in his relationships with women before.* **12** **burn one's boats/bridges** *infml* to destroy all means of going back, so that one must go forward **13** **burn one's fingers** also **get one's 'fingers burnt** — *infml* to suffer the unpleasant results of a foolish action: *George got his fingers badly burnt when the firm went out of business.* **14** **burn the candle at both ends** *infml* to work or be active from very early until very late; use up all one's strength by trying to do too many different things; get too little rest **15** **burn the midnight oil** *infml* to work or study until late at night

▷ **USAGE** In British English the past tense and participle **burned** is usu. only used when the verb is intransitive: *The fire burned brightly.* | *The love of freedom burned in their hearts.* Compare: *I've burnt my hand.* | *He burnt her letters.* In American English **burned** is used both when the verb is intransitive and when it is transitive and **burnt** is not used very much. ◁

burn away *phr v* [I;T] (=burn sthg. ↔ away) to destroy or be destroyed by burning; make or become less or nothing as a result of fire: *The pile of paper burnt away to nothing.*

burn down *phr v* **1** [I;T] (=burn sthg. ↔ down) to destroy (usu. a building) or be destroyed by fire: *The building (was) burnt down and only ashes were left.* **2** [I] also **burn low** — (esp. of a fire) to flame less brightly or strongly as the coal, wood, etc., is used up — compare **BURN out**, **BURN up**

burn sthg. ↔ off *phr v* [T] to destroy by burning: *His hair was burnt off.* | *The farmers are burning off the stubble from the fields.*

burn out *phr v* **1** [T usu. pass.] (**burn sthg. out**) to make hollow by fire: *The building was burnt out and only the walls remained.* | *the burnt-out shell of a building* — compare **BURN down**, **BURN up** **2** [I;T] (=burn sthg. out) to stop (itself) burning because there is nothing left to burn: *That small fire can be left to burn (itself) out.* **3** [I;T] (=burn sthg. out) to (cause to) stop working through damage caused by heat: *The engine has/is burnt out.* **4** [T] (**burn sbdy. out**) to ruin one's health and stop being active through too much work, pressure, alcohol, etc.: *You'll burn yourself out if you work so hard.* | *a burnt-out poet* **5** [I] (of a ROCKET, JET, etc.) to use up all its FUEL and stop operating — see also **BURNOUT**

burn up *phr v* **1** [I] to flame more brightly or strongly:

Put some more wood on the fire to make it burn up. **2** [I;T] (=burn sthg. ↔ up) to destroy or be destroyed completely by fire or great heat: *All the wood has been burnt up.* | *The rocket burnt up when it re-entered the earth's atmosphere.* — compare **BURN down**, **BURN out** **3** [T] (**burn sbdy. ↔ up**) *sl* to fill (someone's) mind completely; **OBS**: *He was burnt up with jealousy.* **4** [T] (**burn sbdy. ↔ up**) to make angry: *They way he treats her really burns me up.*

burn² *n* **1** a hurt place or mark produced (as if) by burning: *She was treated for/She suffered severe burns.* | *rope burns* | *a burn on the surface of the table* | *first-degree burns* **2** an act of firing the motors of a spacecraft: *a short burn*

burn³ *n* esp. *ScotE* a small stream

burn-er /'bɜːnə/ 'bɜːr-/ *n* **1** (often in comb.) a person or thing that burns, esp. the part of a cooker, heater, etc., that produces flames: *a two-burner stove* **2** **put something on the back burner** to delay dealing with something until a later time — see also **BUNSEN BURNER**; see **COOK (USAGE)**

Bur-nett /bɜː'net/ 'bɜːnət/ -ɜːr-/ **Frances Hodgson** /'frænsɪs 'hɒdʒsən/ 'frænsɪs 'hɑːdʒ-/ (1849–1924) an American writer best known for her children's books *Little Lord Fauntleroy* and *The Secret Garden*

burn-ing /'bɜːnɪŋ/ 'bɜːr-/ *adj* [A] **1** on fire: *a burning house* | (fig.) *burning cheeks* (=cheeks that are hot and red) | (fig.) *a burning* (=very strong) *interest in science* | (fig.) *a burning ambition* **2** producing a sensation of great heat or fire: *a burning fever* | *a burning sensation on the tongue* | *burning sands* **3** very important and urgent: *Mass unemployment is one of the burning questions/issues of our time.* **4** **the boy stood on the burning deck** *quote* a well-known phrase from a poem by Felicia Hemans

bur-nish /'bɜːnɪʃ/ 'bɜːr-/ *v* [T] to polish (esp. metal), usu. with something hard and smooth: *burnished brass*

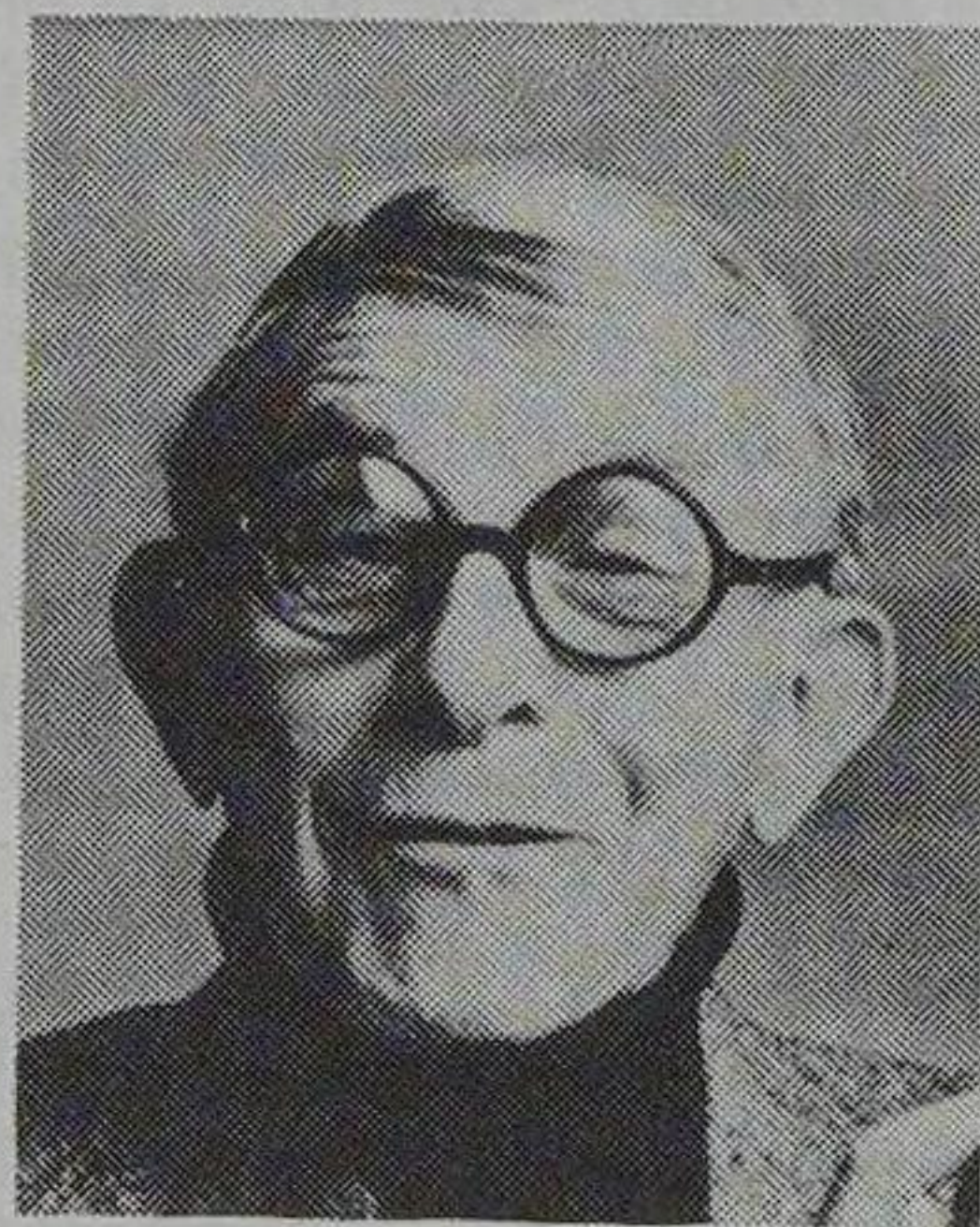
Burn-ley /'bɜːnli/ 'bɜːrn-/ a town in Lancashire, in the N of England, formerly famous for its cotton industry

bur-nous, **burnouse** || also **burnoose** *AmE* — /bɜː'nuːs/ 'bɜːr-/ *n* a long one-piece loose outer garment worn by Arabs, with a soft covering for the head, neck, and shoulders

burn-out /'bɜːnaʊt/ 'bɜːr-/ *n* [C;U] **1** the moment when the engine of a ROCKET or JET uses up all its FUEL and stops operating **2** a state in which one's health has been ruined by too much work, pressure, etc.

Burns /bɜːnz/ 'bɜːrnz/, **George** (1896–) an American COMEDIAN and actor who was popular in VAUDEVILLE, on the radio, and on television, esp. when he was performing with his wife, Gracie Allen. He is known for his CIGAR and his talks to the people watching.

George Burns



Burns, Rob-ert /'rɒbət/ 'rɑːb-ərt/ (1759–96) a Scottish poet who wrote, in Scots DIALECT, hundreds of songs and poems, mainly on country life, love, and national pride. He is regarded as Scotland's national poet and his birthday is celebrated in many countries of the world each year on 25 January, **Burns Night**.

burnt /bɜːnt/ 'bɜːrnt/ *past tense & participle of BURN² — see **BURN**¹ (**USAGE**)*

burnt of-fer-ing /ɪˌˌ/ *n* **1** something (usu. a plant or animal) which is burnt as an offering to a god **2** *humor* food that has been accidentally burnt during cooking

burp /bɜːp/ 'bɜːrp/ *v* *infml* **1** [I] to BELCH **2** [T] to help (a baby) to get rid of stomach gas, esp. by rubbing or gently striking the back — **burp** *n*

burr¹ /bɜːr/ *n* [S] **1** a long loud sound of humming (**HUM**¹): *the burr of a sewing machine* **2** a way of pronouncing English with a strong "r"-sound: *She speaks with a soft rural burr.*

burr², **bur** *n* a seed-container of certain plants, covered with PRICKLES which make it stick onto clothes

Bur-rell Col-lec-tion /'bʌrəl kəˌlekʃən||'bɜːr-/ [*the*] an art collection in Glasgow, given to the city by Sir William Burrell

bur-ri-to /bə'ri:təʊ/ *n* -tos a type of hot SANDWICH made with a TORTILLA which is folded around meat or beans and cheese

bur-ro /'bʊrəʊ||'bɜːrəʊ/ *n* -ros *esp. AmE* a DONKEY, usu. a small one

Bur-roughs /'bʌrəʊz||'bɜː-/ **Ed-gar Rice** /'edgəː raɪs/ (1875–1950) an American writer, best known for the Tarzan stories

bur-row¹ /'bʌrəʊ||'bɜːrəʊ/ *n* a hole in the ground made by an animal, esp. a rabbit, as a place to live in

burrow² *v* **1** [I+adv/prep;T] to make or move by digging: *The rabbits burrowed into the hillside/under the fence.* | *to burrow a hole* | *They burrowed their way under the hill.* **2** [T+obj+adv/prep] to move or press as if looking for warmth, safety, or love: *She burrowed her head into my shoulder.* **3** [I+adv/prep] to search for something as if by digging: *She burrowed into her pocket for a handkerchief.* | *What are you burrowing around in my drawer for?*

bur-sar /'bɜːsəː||'bɜːr-/ *n esp. BrE* a person in a college or school who is responsible for the accounts, buildings, etc.

bur-sa-ry /'bɜːsəri||'bɜːr-/ *n esp. BrE* **1** a bursar's office **2** a SCHOLARSHIP (1)

burst¹ /bɜːst||bɜːrst/ *v burst* **1** [I;T] to (cause to) break open or break apart suddenly and violently, usu. as a result of pressure from within and often causing the contents to become widely scattered: *We drove over some glass and one of our tyres burst.* | *After ten days of rain the river burst its banks and flooded the valley.* | *to burst a balloon* | (fig.) *You'll burst if you eat any more of that cake.* | (fig.) *The storm burst (=suddenly started) and we all got wet.* | (fig.) *I felt as if my heart would burst (with grief/joy).* —see BREAK (USAGE) and see also **fit to burst** (FIT² (5)) **2** [I+adv/prep;T+obj+adv/prep] to (cause to) come into the stated condition suddenly and often violently: *He burst free (from the chains).* | *The police burst through the door/came bursting into the room.* | *In spring the young flowers burst open.* **3** [I (with) only in progressive forms] to be so full as to be almost breaking open: *The town is bursting with tourists.* [+to-v] *She's bursting to tell you the news.* | *The bus was full to bursting point.* | (fig.) *bursting with pride/joy* **4 burst at the seams** to be extremely and usu. uncomfortably full: *I've had so much to eat that I'm bursting at the seams.* | *There were so many people that the hall was bursting at the seams.*

burst in on/upon sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] to interrupt suddenly and usu. noisily: *They burst in on me while I was working.* | *to burst in on someone's thoughts*

burst into sthg. *phr v* [T] **1** to begin suddenly to make (a sound with the voice), esp. when laughing, crying, or singing: *to burst into tears (=start crying)* | *to burst into song/laughter* **2 burst into flames** to begin burning suddenly and uncontrollably

burst out *phr v* **1** [I+v-ing] to begin suddenly (to use the voice without speaking): *They burst out laughing/crying.* **2** [T] to say suddenly and with strong feeling: *"I don't believe it!" she burst out angrily.* —see also OUTBURST

burst² *n* **1** an act or result of bursting: *a burst in the water pipes* **2** [(of)] a sudden short period of great activity, loud noise, strong feeling; outbreak: *a burst of laughter/thunder/applause/machinegun fire* | *With a final burst of speed she overtook the leading runner and won the race.*

bur-then /'bɜːðən||'bɜːr-/ *n, v* lit for BURDEN

bur-ton /'bɜːtn||'bɜːrtn/ *n* (often cap.) **gone for a burton** *BrE* sl lost, broken, or killed: *The radio's gone for a burton.*

Burton, Richard (1925–84) a Welsh film and theatre actor, regarded as one of the best of his time. He was married twice to Elizabeth Taylor, and the marriages attracted almost as much attention as his acting.

Bu-run-di /bʊ'rundi/ a country in E central Africa, bordered by Rwanda, Tanzania, Lake Tanganyika, and Zaïre; capital Bujumbura; population 5,302,000 (1989) —**dian** *n, adj*

bur-y /'beri/ *v* [T] **1** to put (a dead body) into a grave: *Both my grandparents were buried here.* | (fig.) *to bury an old quarrel* **2** [(in)] to hide or cover over, esp. with earth: *The dog has buried a bone.* | *buried treasure* | *The climbers were buried under an avalanche of rocks.* | (fig.) *The true facts are buried in a secret government report.* | *She*

was sitting with her head buried in a newspaper. | (fig.) *He buried his hands in his pockets.* | *buried in thought* **3 bury the hatchet** to become friends again after a quarrel —see also **bury one's head in the sand** (HEAD¹)

Bur-y-at-skay-a /bʊəri'ɑːtskɑːə/ a republic of N Mongolia; capital Ulan Ude

Bury My Heart at Wound-ed Knee /, . . . , . . . ' / a book by Dee Brown which tells the story of the American West in a way that is sympathetic to the Native Americans

bus¹ /bʌs/ *n* a large passenger-carrying motor vehicle, esp. one which carries the public for payment: *to go by bus* | *I saw him on the bus.* | *London's famous double-decker buses* | *yellow school buses* | *to get/catch/miss the bus* | *to pay one's bus fare* | *There is no bus service (=buses do not run) to our village.* —see also DATA BUS

▷ USAGE You can travel by bus, but you travel or ride in or on a particular bus. At the beginning of your journey you get on(to) the bus and at the end of your journey you get off(it), get out of it, or alight (fml) (from it). —see also DRIVE (USAGE), STEER (USAGE), TRANSPORT (USAGE)◁

bus² *v* -ss-, -s- **1** [T] to take by bus, esp. (in the US) to carry (pupils) by bus to a school in a different area, where the pupils are of a different race. This may be done to mix the races at a school where otherwise only black or white children would attend. —see also BROWN v. BOARD OF EDUCATION OF TOPEKA **2** [T] *AmE* to take away dirty dishes from the tables in a restaurant: *a job bussing tables* —**bussing, busing** *n* [U]

bus boy /' . . / *n AmE* a person employed to help a waiter in a restaurant by taking away used dishes

bus-by /'bʌzbi/ *n* **1** a small fur hat worn by certain British soldiers **2** *infml* for BEARSKIN (2)

Busby, Sir Matt (1909–94) an English football team manager. He was the manager of the Manchester United team when several members were killed in the Munich air crash in 1958. His team was known as **Busby's babes** or the **Busby babes**.

bush /bʊʃ/ *n* **1** [C] a low woody plant, smaller than a tree and with many stems: *a rose bush* **2** [*the*+S] uncleared wild country, esp. in Australia or Africa —see also **beat about the bush** (BEAT¹ (6)), **a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush** (BIRD (4))

Bush, George (1924–) 41st president of the US (1989–92). Before the 1992 election Bush was often described as being a WIMP (=a weak person) but people stopped saying this after Operation Desert Storm. Before the election in 1988, Bush promised that he would not raise taxes by saying "Read my lips; no new taxes," but he did later raise some taxes. —see colour picture on page 950

bush-ba-by /'bʊʃberbi/ *n* a small African animal with large eyes and ears, a long tail, and long back legs with which to jump

bushed /bʊʃt/ *adj* [F] *esp. AmE infml* very tired

bush-el /'bʊʃəl/ *n* a unit of CAPACITY, esp. for measuring grain, vegetables, and fruit —see also **hide one's light under a bushel** (HIDE), see TABLE 2

Bush House /, . . / the building in London from which the BBC World Service broadcasts radio programmes abroad

bush league /' . . / *adj AmE* unprofessional or badly done (from a name for the MINOR LEAGUES in BASEBALL, in which the players have not yet reached professional standards): *His work is still strictly bush league.*

Bush-man /'bʊʃmən/ *n* -men /mən/ **1** a member of a race of NOMADIC people of southern Africa **2** *not cap.* one who lives in the Australian bush

bush-ran-ger /'bʊʃreɪndʒəː/ *n* **1** someone who lives in an uncultivated, or forested area with a small population

buses



a London bus



a Greyhound bus

away from civilization **2** a criminal living in such an area

bush tel-e-graph /ˌbʊʃˈtɛlɪɡrəf/ *n* [U] *BrE* humor the fast spreading of information by unofficial means: *The news spread through the whole school by bush telegraph.*

bush-whack /ˈbʊʃwæk/ *v* [I;T] *AmE* to push or cut one's way through trees or bushes: *Tom bushwhacked a trail ahead of us.*

bush-whack-er /ˈbʊʃwækə/ *n* *AmE* someone who makes a path through thick woods esp. GUERRILLAS or others who fight in or attack from woods or rough land **bush-whacking** *n* [U]

bush-y /ˈbʊʃi/ *adj* (of hair) growing thickly: *a bushy beard/tail* —**iness** *n* [U]

bus-i-ly /ˈbɪzəli/ *adv* see BUSY¹

busi-ness /ˈbɪznəs/ *n* **1** [U] the activity of buying and selling goods and services; COMMERCE: *She wants to go into business when she leaves college.* | *It's a pleasure to do business with you.* | *He set up in business as a property developer.* | *I'm here on business.* (=for work and not for pleasure) | *the oil/insurance business* (the branch of business concerned with oil/insurance) | *He may be a friend, but business is business* (=is a serious matter) *and he's not the man for the job.* | *a business lunch* | *Our business hours are from 9 to 5.* **2** [U] the amount or value of trade being done: *"How's business?" "Business is booming."* (=doing very well) | *They are now doing almost twice as much business as they were last year.* | *They advertised their services to drum up business.* (=increase it) **3** [C] a particular money-earning activity or place, such as a shop or factory: *to start up a new business* | *He runs a small business in the town.* | *a profitable business* **4** [U] one's responsibility or concern: *A teacher's business is to help children learn.* | *What I do with my money is none of your business.* (=does not concern you) | *I wish you would mind your own business.* (=not pay attention to things that do not concern you) | *You had no business* (=no right) *to meddle/meddling in my affairs.* **5** [S] an affair or matter: *I don't understand this business.* | *Let's get down to the main business of the meeting.* (=the matter to be considered) | *a strange business* | *Investing in shares can be quite a risky business.* **6** [U] *tech* (in the theatre) things done by an actor apart from speaking, such as movements of the hands, the look on the face, etc.: *stage business* **7 business as usual** a phrase, sometimes written on a sign, meaning that a shop or other business is working normally (NORMAL) even though it is having difficulties, e.g. there has been a fire **8 business before pleasure** saying you should do your work first and then enjoy yourself afterwards **9 get down to business** to start dealing with the most important matter or subject: *We'd better stop chatting and get down to business.* **10 like 'nobody's/no one's business** *infml, usu.* apprec very fast or very well: *He can play the piano like nobody's business.* **11 not in the business of** not having the aim or purpose of: *This government is not in the business of cutting taxes simply in order to help the rich.* **12 out of business** no longer able to operate as a business: *These big increases in rents could put a lot of small shops out of business.* —see also BIG BUSINESS, FUNNY BUSINESS, MONKEY BUSINESS, SHOW BUSINESS, **mean business** (MEAN²)

business card /ˌbɪznəsˈkɑːd/ also **card**— *n* a card given and received by business people stating the owner's name, position, company, and address —compare VISITING CARD

business class /ˌbɪznəsˈklɑːs/ also **club class** *AmE*— *n* [U] (on an aircraft) the travelling conditions which are better and dearer than TOURIST CLASS but worse and cheaper than FIRST CLASS: *I always travel business class.* | *a business-class ticket*

business end /ˌbɪznəsˈend/ *n* [the+S (of)] *infml* the end of something, such as a tool or weapon, that performs the job for which the thing is made: *the business end of a gun* (=the barrel)

Business Ex-pansion Scheme /ˌbɪznəsˈɪksən ˌskiːm/ *n* a system in Britain of giving tax allowances on money used in small new businesses

busi-ness-like /ˌbɪznəsˈlaɪk/ *adj* having qualities that bring success in business, esp. an effective and practical way of working: *a businesslike person/manner* | *The talks were frank and businesslike.*

busi-ness lunch /ˌbɪznəsˈlʌntʃ/ *n* a meal at which people discuss

business, esp. when one person is trying to persuade another to buy or sell something

busi-ness-man /ˈbɪznəsmən/, **busi-ness-wom-an** /ˌbɪznəsˈwʊmən/ *fem.*— *n* -**men** /mən/ **1** a person who works in business, esp. as an owner, director, or top manager of a company: *a successful young businessman* | *a small businessman* (=one who runs a small business) **2** a person who has the qualities necessary to be successful in business: *I'm not much of a businessman.* —see also SMALL BUSINESSMAN

business park /ˌbɪznəsˈpɑːk/ *n* an area where a lot of companies and businesses have buildings

business rep-ly mail /ˌbɪznəsˈrɛplɪ ˈmeɪl/ *n* *AmE* for FREEPOST

business stud-ies /ˌbɪznəsˈstʌdiːz/ *n* [P] a course of study at a school or college covering economic and financial subjects

business suit /ˌbɪznəsˈsuːt/ *n* *AmE* for LOUNGE SUIT

busk /bʌsk/ *v* [I] *BrE infml* to play music in the street or other public place in order to earn money — **er** *n*

bus lane /ˌbʊzˈleɪn/ *n* a part of a wide road, marked for the use of buses only: *We shouldn't really drive up here, it's the bus lane.*

bus-man's hol-i-day /ˌbʊsmənzˈhɒlɪdeɪ/ *n* [*usu. sing.*] a holiday spent in doing one's usual work: *The painter spent a busman's holiday painting his own house.*

bus pass /ˌbʊzˈpɑːs/ *n* a special ticket given to old people, school-children, etc. in Britain which allows them to travel free on buses

bus ser-vice /ˌbʊzˈsɜːvɪs/ *n* the operation of buses in a particular area

bus shel-ter /ˌbʊzˈʃɛltə/ *n* a small building, sometimes without walls, which keeps the rain off people who are waiting for a bus

bus sta-tion /ˌbʊzˈsteɪʃən/ *n* (the buildings at) a place where buses start and finish their journeys, and where passengers can get on and off

bus stop /ˌbʊzˈstɒp/ *n* a fixed place at the side of a road where buses stop for passengers: *waiting at the bus stop*

bust¹ /bʌst/ *n* **1** a piece of SCULPTURE showing a person's head, shoulders, and upper chest: *a bust of Beethoven* —compare STATUETTE **2 euph** a woman's breasts; BOSOM **3** a measurement round a woman's breasts and back: *Do you have this dress in a bigger bust size?*

bust² *v* **busted** or **bust** [T] **1 infml** to break: *I bust(ed) my watch this morning.* | *They busted the door down.* **2 AmE infml** to burst: *a busted balloon* | *The pipes will bust under that pressure.* **3 sl** (of the police) **a** to charge with an offence, esp. one connected with drugs; ARREST: *He was busted for possession of cocaine.* **b** to enter (someone's house) without warning to look for something illegal, esp. drugs; visit on a RAID¹ (2) **4 infml, esp. AmE** to lower (a military person) in rank; DEMOTE **5 -buster infml** a person who breaks up or destroys the stated thing: *a crimebuster* (= who catches criminals) **6 bust a gut sl** **a** to make a great effort (to do something): *I nearly bust a gut finishing that work on time.* **b** to laugh very hard: *I thought I'd bust a gut when he fell off the wall.* **7** (somewhere or something) **or bust** *usu. humor* a phrase used when saying that one will make a great effort to go somewhere or do something or fail completely: *San Francisco or bust!* | *I'll do it by Wednesday or bust.*

▷ USAGE In American English the past tense and participle **busted** is used more often than **bust**. ◁

bust up *phr v infml* **1** [I] (esp. of a relationship or partnership) to separate: *They bust up after six years of marriage.* **2** [I] to laugh very hard: *We busted up laughing.*

3 [T] (**bust** sthg. ↔ **up**) *AmE* to damage or spoil: *The travel company's failure bust up their holiday.* —see also BUST-UP

bust³ *n sl* **1** a police ARREST² or RAID¹: *Several big dealers have been rounded up in a major drugs bust.*

bust⁴ *adj infml* **1** broken: *My watch is bust.* **2 AmE** a complete failure **3 go bust** (of a business) to fail; go BANKRUPT: *I'm not surprised he went bust, considering the sort of risks he was taking.*

bus-ter /ˈbʌstə/ *n sl, esp. AmE, often derog* (used as a form of address to a man): *Come here, buster!*

bus-tle¹ /ˈbʌsəl/ *v* [I] to be busily active, often with much noise: *She is always bustling about the house.* | *a bustling market town* | *a town bustling with activity* —**bustle** *n* [S

(of) : *I enjoy the hustle and bustle of life in a big city.*

bustle² *n* a frame worn for holding out the back part of a woman's skirt in former times

bust-up /'bʌs.ʌp/ *n* **1** a noisy quarrel **2** a coming to an end of a relationship or partnership; *BREAKUP: the bust-up of their marriage* — see also **BUST UP**

bust-y /'bʌsti/ *adj* *infml* (of a woman) having large breasts

bus-y¹ /'bɪzi/ *adj* **1** having a lot of work to do; actively working or doing things: *She's rather busy now and can't see you until later.* | *busy with some important work* | *a busy man* | *All this filing will keep you busy for the rest of the morning.* [+*v-ing*] *I was too busy working to notice the time.* **2** full of work or activity: *a busy day/town* | *one of the busiest airports in the world* **3** *esp. AmE* (of telephones) in use; *ENGAGED: I'm sorry, the line is busy.* — see **TELEPHONE (USAGE)** **4** *derog* too full of small details: *This wallpaper's too busy for our bedroom, don't you think?* **5** *as busy as a bee/as bees* very busy — *ily* *adv*: *busily working* | *The new government is busily changing all the laws made by its predecessors.*

busy² *v* [T (with)] to keep (oneself) busy: *To forget his troubles, he busied himself with answering letters in his garden.*

bus-y-bod-y /'bɪzi,bɒdi/ *n* *derog* a person who takes too much interest in other people's affairs

busy Liz-zie /'bɪzi 'lɪzi/ *n* *BrE* a popular POT PLANT which grows close to the soil, spreads quickly, and has usu. pink flowers

busy sig-nal /'bɪ. si. ɪ. ɪ. ɪ. / *AmE* || **engaged tone** *BrE* — *n* the sound one hears when the number one is calling on the telephone is already in use

but¹ /bət; strong bʌt/ *conj* **1** against what might be expected; in spite of this: *The situation looked desperate, but they didn't give up hope.* | *They are poor but proud.* | *It was cheap, but it goes quite well.* **2** yet at the same time; on the other hand: *It wasn't cheap, but it's very good.* | *These changes will cost quite a lot, but they will save us money in the long run.* | *an expensive but immensely useful book* | *It has some limitations, but then (again) what do you expect from a £100 computer?* **3** rather; instead: *They own not one but three houses!* | *The purpose of the scheme is not to help the employers but to provide work for young people.* **4** except that; however: *He would have won easily, but he fell and broke his leg.* | *I would like to go, but I'm too busy.* | *We were coming to see you, but it rained (so we didn't).* | *We had no alternative but to dismiss her.* | *There's no doubt/no question but (that) he's guilty.* | (*lit*) *There was not a man but had tears in his eyes.* (=they all had tears in their eyes) | **But for** (=without) *your help I'd be stranded.* **5** (used to express surprise, disagreement, or other strong feeling: *But how wonderful!* | *But that's outrageous!* **6** (used to give force to a statement): *It'll be the event of the year — everyone, but everyone, is coming.* **7** (used to change the subject) anyway: *But now to the main question...*

but² *prep* **1** other than; except: *There's no one here but me.* | *You can come any day but Thursday.* | *This car has been nothing but trouble!* | *Who but George would do such a thing?* | *What can we do but sit and wait?* **2** the last/next but one/two/three *esp. BrE* one/two/three etc. from the last/next: *His house is the last but one in this street.* — see also **all but** (ALL²)

▷ **USAGE** Compare **but**, **except**, and **save**. In this sentence we can use all three: *We're all here but/except/save (fml) Mary.* But in this sentence **but** cannot be used: *The window is never opened except/save in summer.* Use **but** only after words like *no*, *all*, *nobody*, *anywhere*, *everything*, or after question-words like *who?*, *where?*, *what?* **But** is usually followed by a noun or pronoun: *Who else but John would have played a trick like that?* | *They gave a toy to everyone but me.* ◁

but³ *adv* **1** *esp. lit* only; just: *He is still but a child!* | *We can but try.* **2** *AmE sl* (used to add force): *Go there but fast!* | *They're rich, but I mean rich!*

but⁴ /bʌt/ *n* (There are) no buts about it *infml* (There is) no doubt about it or argument against it — see also **ifs and buts** (IF²)

bu-tane /'bjʊ:teɪn/ *n* [U] a natural gas used for cooking, heating, and lighting

butch /bʊtʃ/ *adj* *derog* (of a woman) showing a lot of male

tendencies; sometimes used as an offensive word to describe **LESBIANS**

Butch Cas-si-dy and The Sun-dance Kid /'bʊtʃ ,kæsɪdi ənd ðə 'sʌndɑ:ns ,kɪd/-dæns-/ a film made in 1969 with Robert Redford and Paul Newman, about two American **BANDITS** who were hunted and finally died in a **SHOOT-OUT**

Robert Redford and Paul Newman in *Butch Cassidy and The Sundance Kid*



butch-er¹ /'bʊtʃə/ *n* **1** a person who owns or works in a shop (**butcher's**) which sells meat: *I bought some lamb at the butcher's.* **2** a person who causes suffering or death cruelly and unnecessarily

butcher² *v* [T] **1** to kill (animals) and prepare them for sale as food **2** to kill (*esp.* large numbers of people) bloodily or unnecessarily — see **KILL (USAGE)** **3** *infml* to spoil through carelessness or lack of skill: *That hairdresser really butchered my hair — it looks awful.*

butch-er-y /'bʊtʃəri/ *n* [U] **1** the preparation of meat for sale **2** cruel and unnecessary killing of human beings

Bute /bjʊt/ **1** an island off the coast of SW Scotland **2** a former **COUNTY** of W Scotland, including the islands of Arran and Bute, now part of Strathclyde **REGION**

Bu-the-lez-i /'bʊtə'leɪzi/, **Chief Man-go-su-thu Gat-sha** /'mæŋgəʊ,sʊ:tu: 'gætʃə/ (1928–) the South African leader of the Zulu Inkatha movement

but-ler /'bʌtlə/ *n* (*esp.* formerly) the chief male servant of a house, in charge of the others. In Britain, the **STEREOTYPE** of a butler is of a very calm, **EFFICIENT**, polite man who has no sense of humour and never appears to be shocked or surprised by anything. People sometimes make jokes about the fact that, in old British **DETECTIVE** stories in which someone is murdered, it is often the butler who is found to be the murderer.

Butler, Rhett /ret/ the main male character in the film *Gone With the Wind*, played by Clark Gable — see colour picture on page 685

But-lins /'bʌtlɪnz/ a group of British holiday camps, established by Billy Butlin (1899–1980). Everything is provided within these camps at a reasonable price and they are popular *esp.* with families and working-class people: *We always go to Butlins for our holidays.* — see also **PONTINS**

butt¹ /bʌt/ *v* [I,T] to strike or push against (someone or something) with the head or horns: *butting its head against the wall* — **butt** *n*: *The goat gave me a butt in the stomach!*

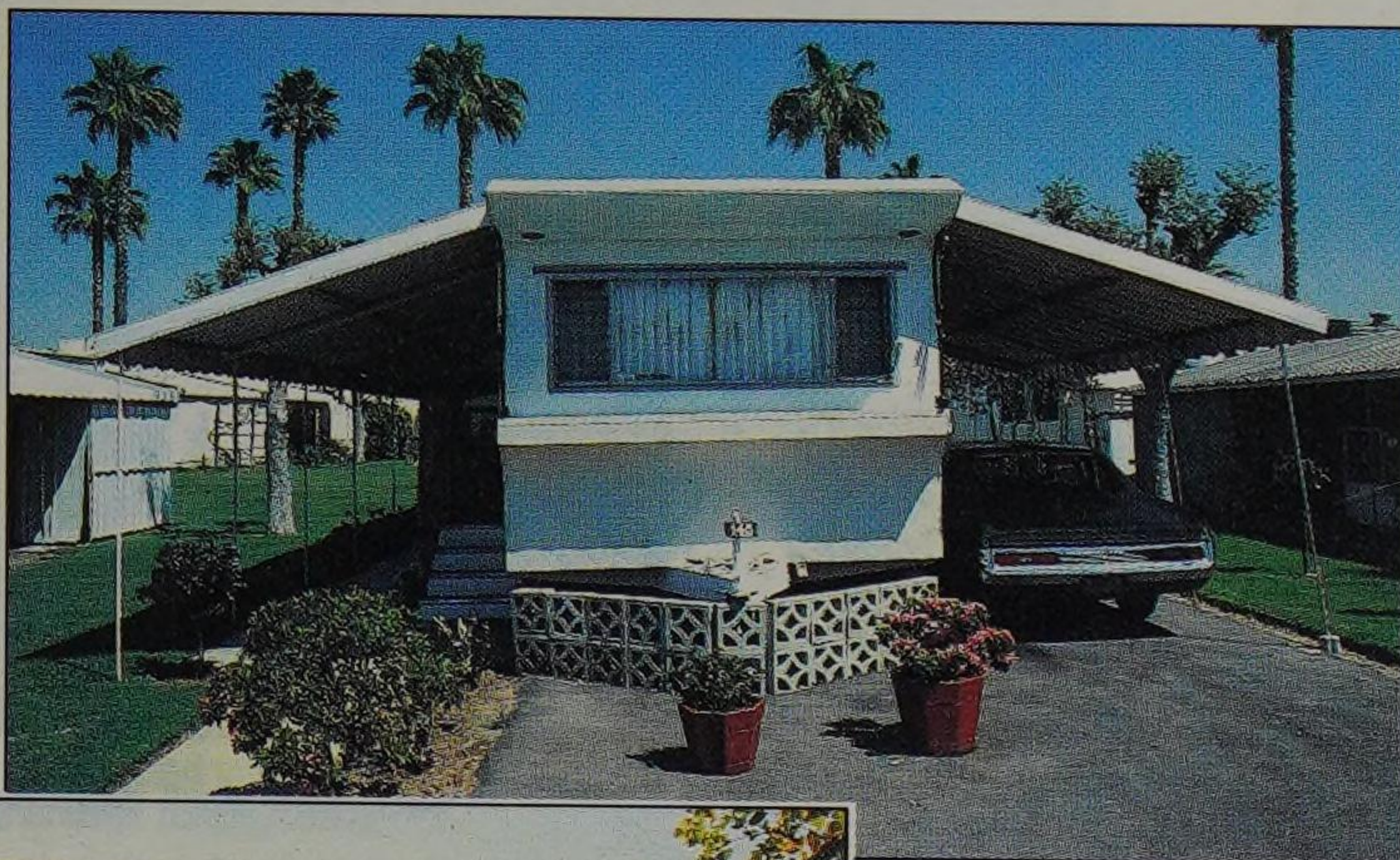
butt in *phr v* [I (on)] *sl, often derog* to interrupt, usu. by speaking: *Stop butting in (on our conversation)!*

butt² *n* [(of, for)] a person or thing that people make fun of: *Poor John was the butt of/for all their jokes.*

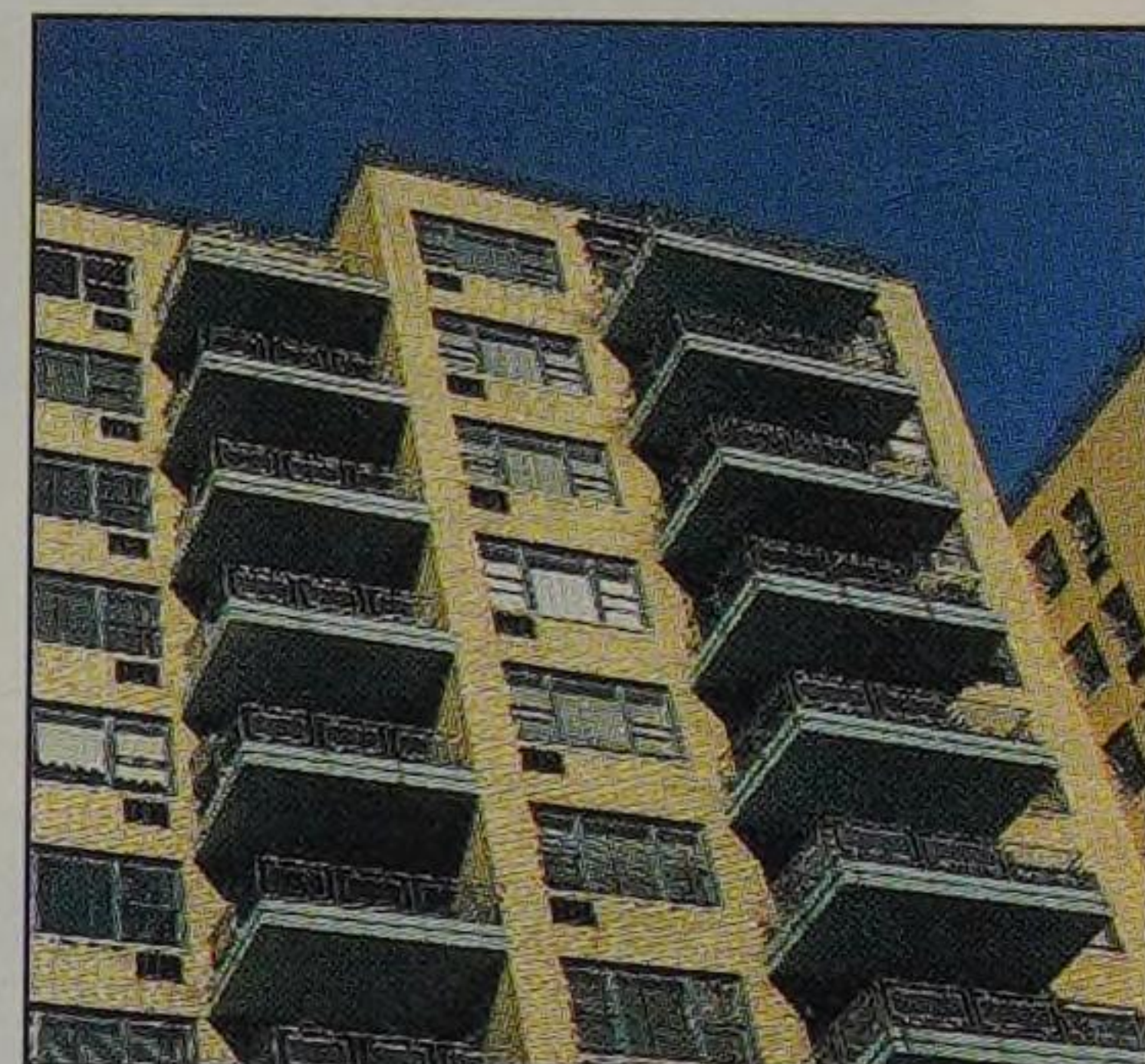
butt³ *n* **1** a large, thick, or bottom end of something: *a rifle butt* | *a cigarette butt* (=the last unsmoked end) **2** *sl* the

butler

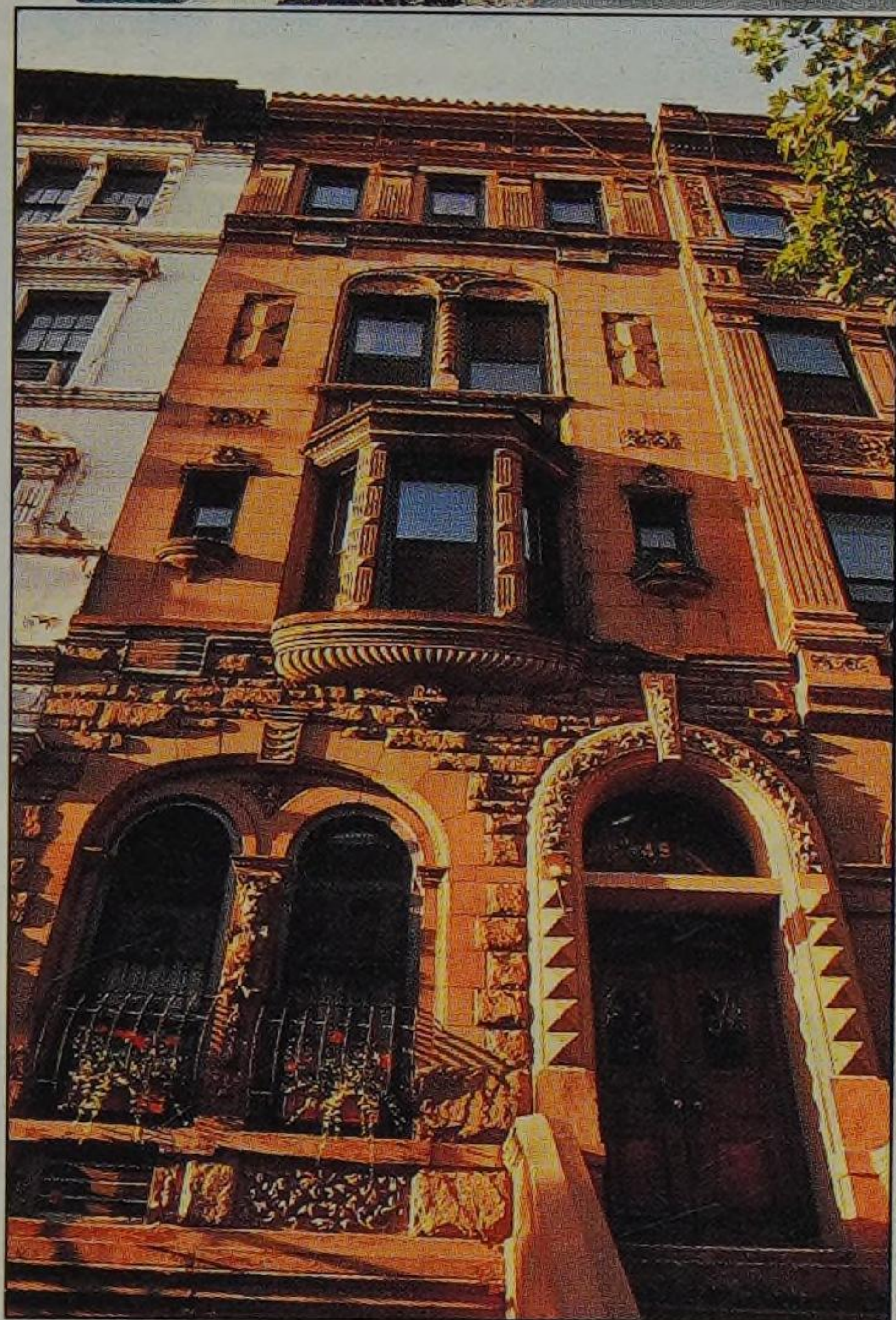




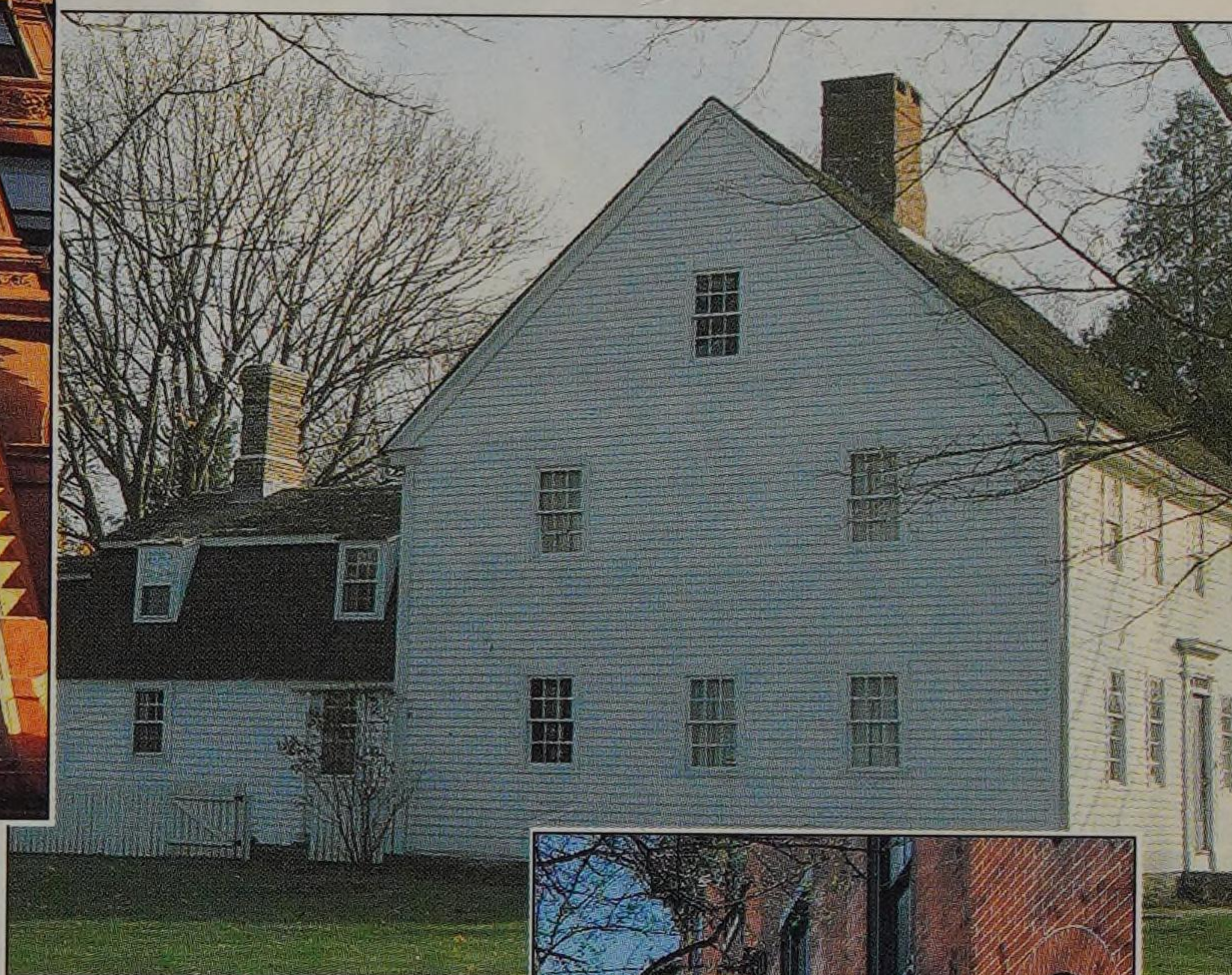
a mobile home



an apartment building

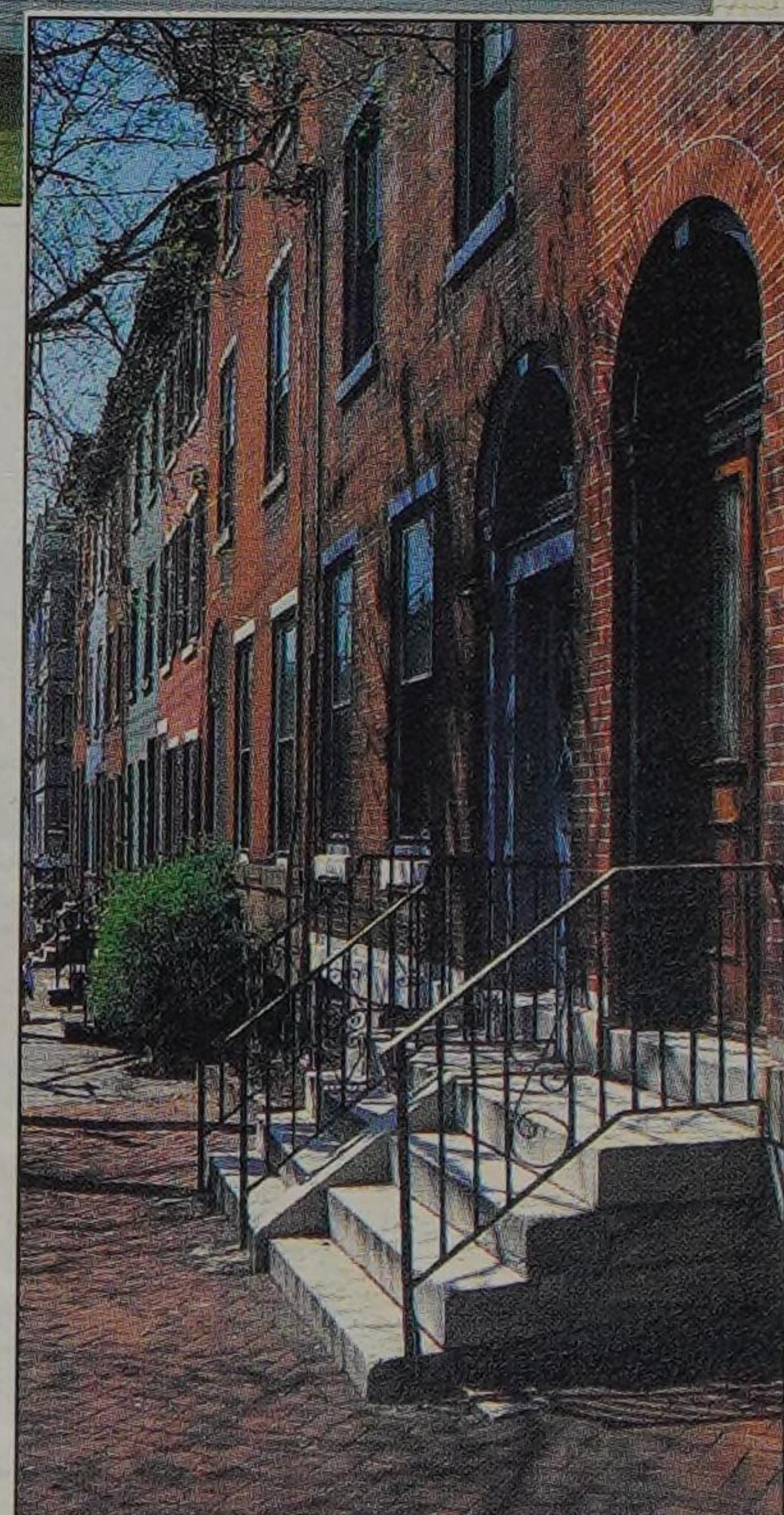


a brownstone

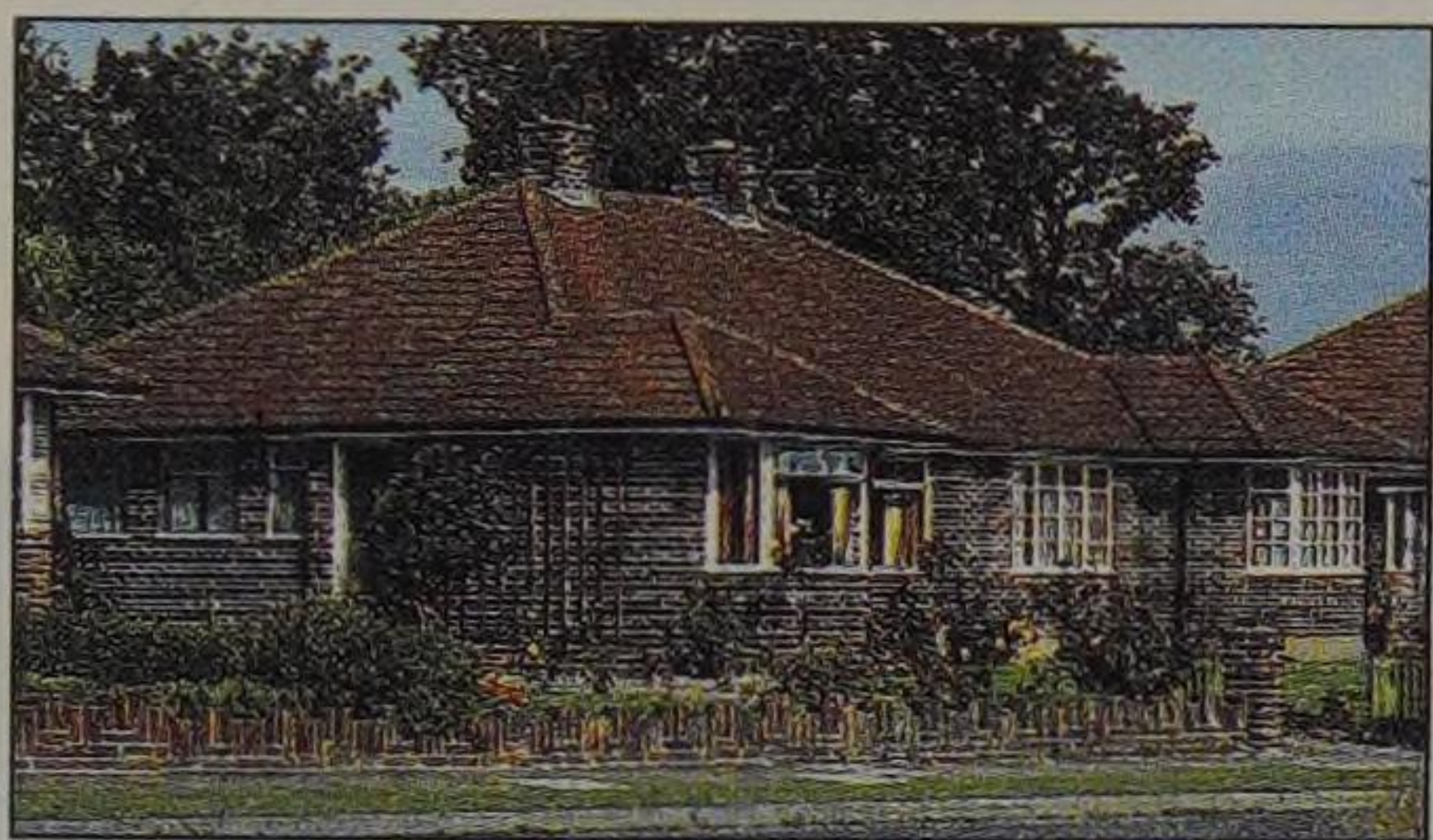


a house in New England

a ranch house



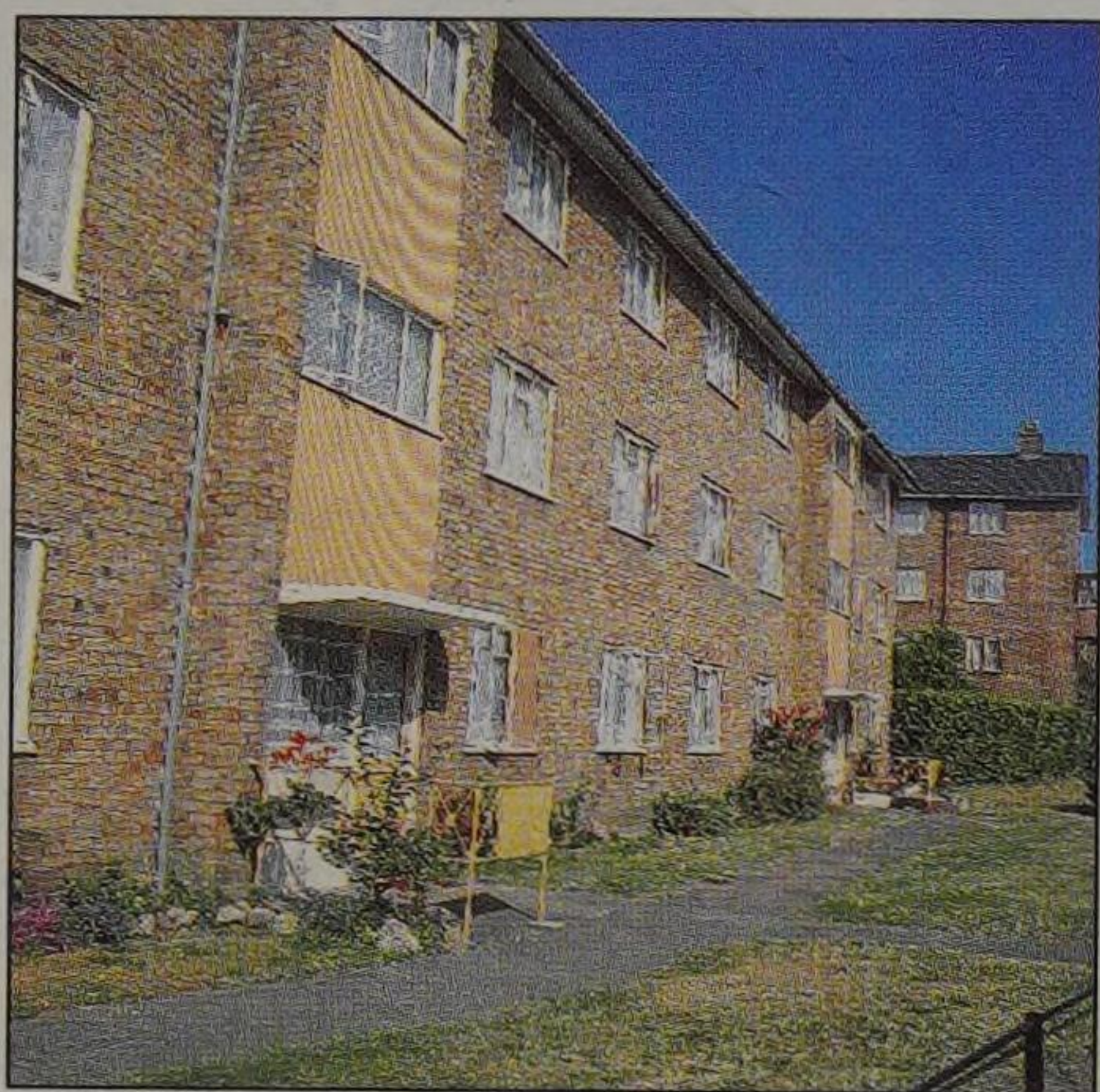
row houses



a bungalow



suburban semi-detached houses

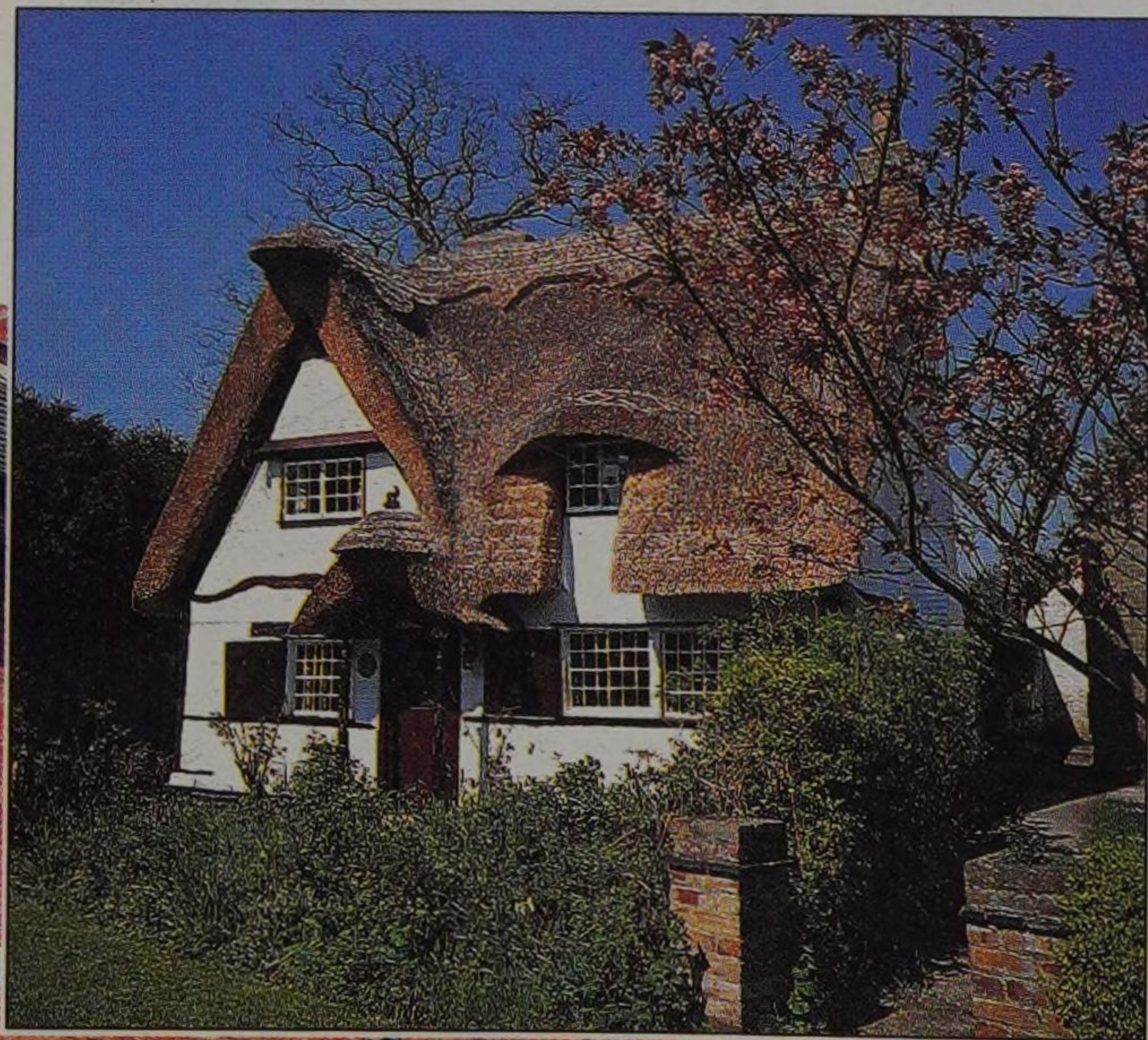


a council house



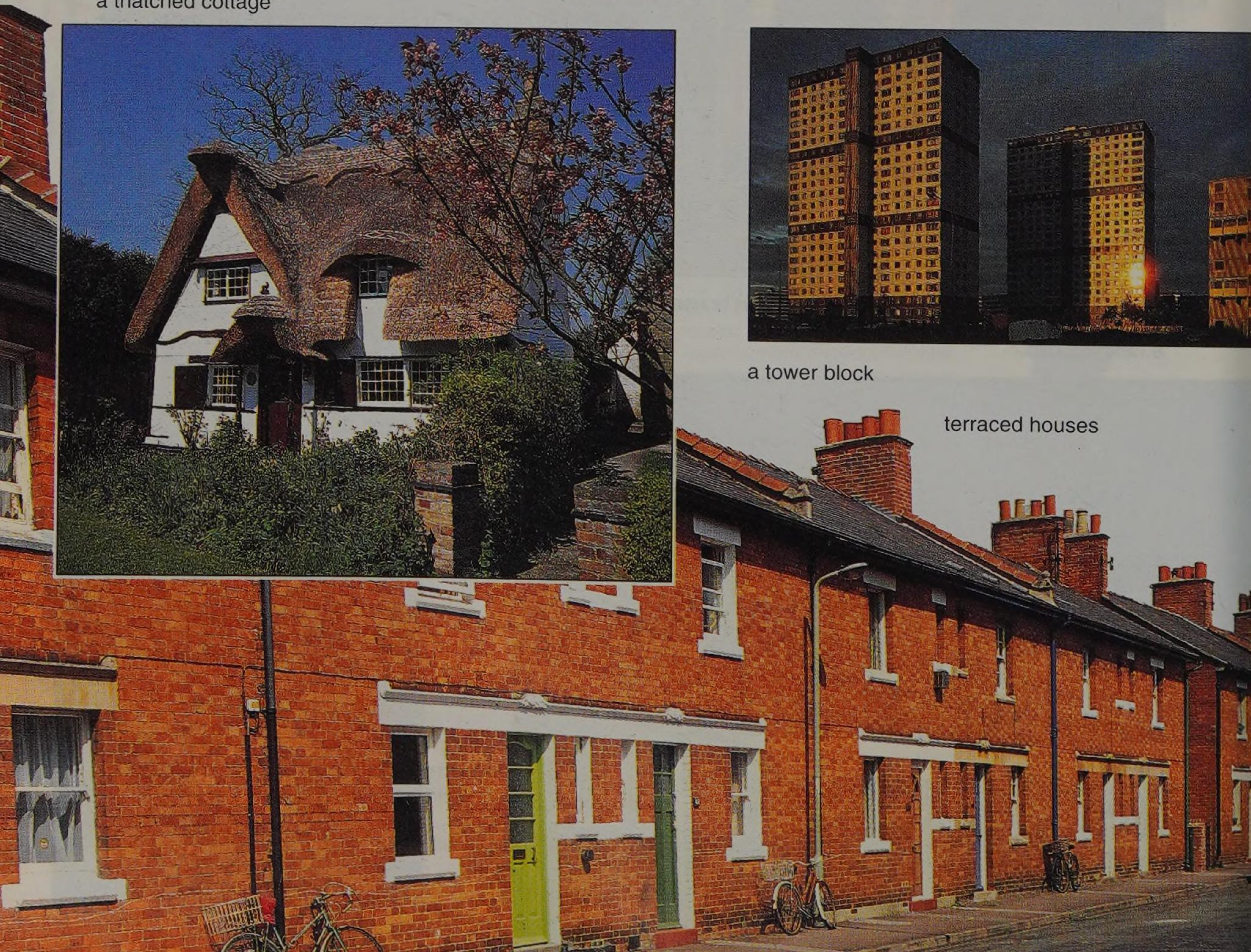
a housing estate

a thatched cottage



a tower block

terraced houses



part of the body on which a person sits: *Get off your butt and do some work!*

butt⁴ *n* a large barrel for liquids

butte /bju:t/ *n* *AmE* a hill which stands on its own and has steep sides and a flat top

but-ter¹ /'batə/ *n* [U] **1** fairly solid yellow fat made from milk or cream and spread on bread, used in cooking, etc.: *a butter dish* —compare **SOFT MARGARINE** **2** **Butter wouldn't melt in his/her mouth** *infml* He/She pretends to be kind, harmless, sincere, etc. but is not really so — *~y adj*: *a buttery taste* | *buttery fingers*

butter² *v* [T] to spread butter on: *to butter a slice of bread* **butter** sbdy. ↔ **up phr v** [T] *infml* to praise (someone) too much with the hope of gaining something in return; **FLATTER**

butter bean /'..../ *n* [*usu. pl.*] a large pale yellow bean, often sold in its dried form

but-ter-cream /'batəkri:m||-ər-/ *n* a soft creamy spread made with butter and sugar and used inside or on top of cakes: *buttercream icing/filling*

but-ter-cup /'batəkʌp||-ər-/ *n* a common small yellow wild flower which often grows in fields —see picture at **FLOWER**

but-ter-fin-gers /'batə,fiŋgəz||'batər,fiŋgərz/ *n* **butter-fingers** *infml* someone who often drops things they are carrying or trying to catch

but-ter-fly /'batəflai||-ər-/ *n* **1** [C] a type of insect with large often beautifully-coloured wings, which develops from a **CATERPILLAR** —compare **MOTH** (1), and see picture at **METAMORPHOSIS** **2** [C] someone who seems to be only interested in pleasure: *a social butterfly* **3** [(the) S] a way of swimming on one's front, moving the arms together over one's head while kicking the feet up and down together **4** **have butterflies (in one's stomach)** *infml* to feel very nervous before doing something

but-ter-milk /'batə,milk||-ər-/ *n* [U] the liquid that remains after butter is made from milk

butter moun-tain /'..../ *n* [*the*] the large **SURPLUS** of butter which has been built up by the countries of the **EC**

but-ter-scotch /'batəskɒtʃ||-ərskɔ:tʃ/ *n* [U] a sweet food made from sugar and butter boiled together

but-tock /'batək/ *n* [*usu. pl.*] either of the two fleshy parts of the body on which a person sits

but-ton¹ /'batn/ *n* **1** a small *usu.* circular fastener, made of plastic, bone, metal, etc., which is fixed to one part of a garment and passed through a hole in another part in order to join the two parts together: *One of the buttons has come off my shirt.* | *Will you help me do up (=fasten) my buttons?* | (fig.) *a button nose* (=a small broad flattish nose) sits—see picture at **FASTENER** **2** also **push button**—a button-like object that is pressed to start a machine: *I pressed the button, and the bell rang.* | *Push this button to call the elevator.* **3** *AmE* a small metal or plastic **BADGE**: *He had buttons all over his lapels.* **4** **on the button** *sl, esp. AmE* exactly right or on time —see also **BUTTONS**, **PUSH-BUTTON**, **bright as a button** (**BRIGHT**)

button² *v* [I;T (UP)] to (cause to) close or fasten with buttons: *Button (up) your coat — it's cold outside.* | *My dress buttons at the back.*

button up *phr v* **1** [I] *sl* to keep quiet; **SHUT UP**: *Button up, will you — I'm trying to get on with some work!* **2** [T] (**button** sthg. ↔ **up**) *infml* to complete successfully: *The new contract is all buttoned up now.*

button-down /'..../ *adj* [A] having the ends (of a collar) fastened to the garment with buttons: *a button-down collar/shirt*

but-ton-hole¹ /'batnhəʊl/ *n* **1** a hole for a button to be put through to fasten a shirt, coat, etc. **2** *BrE*||**boutonniere** *AmE* a flower to wear in a buttonhole or pinned to one's coat or dress: *wearing a rose as a buttonhole*

buttonhole² *v* [T] to stop (someone) and force them to join in a conversation: *She buttonholed me in the corridor and asked me about my plans.*

but-tons /'batnz/ *n* *old-fash* for **BELLBOY**

Buttons a character in the **PANTOMIME** *Cinderella*. He is Cinderella's friend.

button-through /'..../ *BrE n* (of a piece of clothing) fastened (**FASTEN**) from the top to the bottom with buttons: *a button-through skirt/dress*

but-tress¹ /'batrəs/ *n* a solid structure built against a wall as a support —see also **FLYING BUTTRESS**

buttress² *v* [T (UP, with)] to support or strengthen (as if) with a buttress: *Buttressed by its past profits, the company stayed in business through a difficult period.*

but-ty /'bati/ *n* *BrE dial* for **SANDWICH**

bux-om /'bʌksəm/ *adj* *apprec* (of a woman) attractively fat and healthy-looking, esp. having large breasts: *a buxom barmaid* —compare **BOSOMY**

buy¹ /baɪ/ *v* **bought** /bɔ:t/ **1** [I;T] to obtain (something) by paying money: *We bought the house for £75,000.* | *Whether you are buying or selling, our prices are the best in town!* | *I'll buy the drinks.* [+obj(i)+obj(d)] *Let me buy you a drink.* [+obj+for] *Let me buy a drink for you.* | *We bought it from/(infml) off our neighbours.* [+obj+adj] *I bought my car cheap/secondhand.* | *I bought it for a song.* (=at a very small price) | *A pound doesn't buy as much now as it did ten years ago.* | (fig.) *They bought peace with their freedom.* —opposite **sell** **2** [T] *sl* to accept; be willing to believe: *The police will never buy that story!* **3** **buy it** *AmE infml* to die, esp. as the result of an accident: *He fell off a cliff and bought it.* **4** **buy time** *infml* to delay an action or decision in order to give oneself more time: *I tried to buy time by telling them their cheque was in the post.*

buy sthg. ↔ **in phr v** [T] *BrE* to buy (a supply of something) in case of future need

buy into sthg. *phr v* [T] *AmE infml* to believe (an idea): *I could never buy into that Scientology stuff.*

buy sbdy. ↔ **off phr v** [T] to pay money to (someone) in order to persuade them not to cause trouble or carry out a threat; **BRIBE**

buy sbdy./sthg. ↔ **out phr v** [T] **1** to gain control of (a business) by buying all the shares and business rights of (other people in the business): *to buy out a business* | *He bought his partner out.* —see also **BUYOUT** **2** [(of)] to gain (someone's) freedom, esp. formerly from the armed forces or slavery by paying money: *to buy oneself out (of the army)*

buy sthg. ↔ **up phr v** [T] to buy all the supplies of: *All the available building land has been bought up by property developers.*

buy² *n infml* something bought, esp. something of value at a low price: *It's a good buy at that price!* | *That dress was a bad buy — I've only worn it once.*

buy-er /'baɪə/ *n* a person who buys, esp. professionally for a company or large shop: *a buyer for Harrods* —compare **SELLER** (1)

buyer's mar-ket /'..../ *n* [S] a situation in which goods are plentiful, buyers have a lot of choice, and prices tend to be low —compare **SELLER'S MARKET**

buy-out /'baɪaʊt/ *n* a situation in which a person or group gains control of a company by buying all or most of its shares: *a management buyout* (=by which the managers of a company gain control of it) —see also **BUY OUT**

buzz¹ /bʌz/ *v* **1** [I] to make the continuous sound that bees make; **HUM**: *the buzzing of the bees* | (fig.) *The crowd/room buzzed with excitement.* **2** [I (for);T] to call (someone) by using a buzzer: *She buzzed (for) her secretary.* **3** [T] *infml* to fly low and fast over: *Planes buzzed the crowd as a warning.*

buzz off *phr v* [I *usu. imperative*] *sl* to go away: *Buzz off and stop bothering me!*

buzz² *n* **1** [C] a buzzing sound **2** [S] *infml* a telephone call: *I'll just give him a buzz.* **3** also **buzz cut** *AmE infml* a **CREW CUT**

buz-zard /'bʌzəd||-ərd/ *n* **1** *BrE* a large bird (a kind of **HAWK**) that kills and eats other creatures **2** *AmE* a large black bird (a kind of **VULTURE**) that eats dead flesh

buzz-er /'bʌzə/ *n* (the sound of) an electric signalling apparatus that buzzes: *Come in when you hear the buzzer.*

buzz saw /'..../ *n* *AmE* for **CIRCULAR SAW**

buzz-word /'bʌzwɜ:ɪd||-wɜ:ɪrd/ *n* sometimes *derog* a word or phrase related to a specialized subject, which is thought to express something important but is often hard to understand: *the latest computer buzzword*

BWI /,bi: dʌbəlju: 'aɪ/ *Baltimore-Washington International Airport*; a large airport between Baltimore, Maryland and Washington, DC

by¹ /baɪ/ *prep* **1** (used, esp. with a passive verb, to show the person or thing that performs an action or causes a

result): *I was attacked by a dog.* | *The building was designed by a famous architect.* | *Our crops were destroyed by the storm.* | *The plan is opposed by most of the members.* | *a request by the police for more public cooperation* | *We are all alarmed by the rise in violent crime.* | *We were held up by a traffic jam.* —see WITH (USAGE) **2** through the use or means of: *to travel by car|bus|train* | *Send it by air mail.* | *You can reserve the tickets by phone.* | *It's not fair to judge people by their appearance.* | *I know her by sight.* (=I know what she looks like.) [+v-ing] *They put out the fire by pouring water on it.* | *She earns her living by selling insurance.* **3** passing through or along: *They came in by the back door.* | *It's quicker if you go by the main road.* **4** near; beside: *standing by the window* | *Sit by me.* | *I always have|keep a spare set by me.* (=close enough to reach easily) **5** past: *He walked|passed by me without noticing me.* | *I go by the house every day.* **6** (used to show the name of the person who wrote a book, directed a film, made a work of art, etc.): *a play by Shakespeare* | *Jaws — a film by Steven Spielberg based on the novel by Peter Benchley* **7** not later than; before: *Be here by four o'clock.* | *Will you finish it by tomorrow?* | *By the time the doctor arrived the patient had died.* | *By 1995 the population will have risen to over 20 million.* **8** in accordance with: *to play by the rules* | *Profits were £6 million, but by their standards this is quite a bad result.* **9** to the amount or degree of: *The price of oil fell by a further \$2 a barrel.* | *They overcharged me by £3.* | *It's better by far.* (=much better) **10** (used to show the part taken, held, etc.): *He led her by the hand.* | *I grabbed the hammer by the handle.* **11** (in expressions of strong feeling and solemn promises): *By God he's done it!* | *to swear by heaven* **12** (in measurements and numbers): *a room 15 feet by 20 feet* | *to divide 10 by 5* | *to multiply 10 by 5* **13** (used to show a rate or quantity): *paid by the hour* | *You can buy them singly or by the dozen.* **14** (used to show the size of units or groups that follow each other): *little by little* | *The animals went in two by two.* | *day by day* **15** during: *Cats sleep by day and hunt by night.* **16** with regard to: *a doctor by profession* | *French by birth* | *It's alright by me if you go.* **17** (used without **a** or **the**) as a result of: *I did it by mistake|by accident.* | *better by design* **18** having (the stated person or animal) as a father: *She had two children by her first husband.* **19 (all) by oneself** (completely) alone: *He was sitting by himself.* | *I did it all by myself!*

by² *adv* **1** past: *He walked by without noticing me.* | *A lot of time has gone by since then.* **2** near: *some people standing by* **3** away or aside for future use: *Try to put|keep a bit of money by for the holidays.* **4** *esp. AmE* at or to another's home: *Stop by|Come by for a drink after work.* **5** *by and by* *esp. lit or old-fash* before long; soon: *You will forget him by and by.* **6** *by and large* on the whole; in general: *By and large, your plan is a good one.* **7** *by the by* (used when talking about a subject of secondary importance); *INCIDENTALLY: I was doing some shopping yesterday, by the by bread's gone up again, when I saw Mrs Jones...*

by- see WORD FORMATION

bye¹ /baɪ/ also **bye-bye** /ɪˌˈbaɪˌbaɪ/ — *interj infml* goodbye

bye² *n* (in cricket) a run made off a ball that the hitter (BATSMAN) did not touch

bye³ *n* a situation in a sporting competition in which a player or a team does not have to play against another team until the next round of the competition: *Our volleyball team has three byes this season.*

bye-byes /ˈbaɪbaɪz/ *esp. BrE||beddy-bye AmE— n* go to bye-byes (used by or to children) to go to sleep

by-e-lec-tion, **bye-election** /ɪˌˈbaɪˌleɪʃən/ *n esp. BrE* a special election held between regular elections to fill a position whose former holder has left it or died

By-el-o-rus-sia /biˌeləʊˈrʌʃə/ *n* see BELORUSSIA

by-gone¹ /ˈbaɪɡən/ — *adj* [A *no comp.*] gone by; past; former: *in bygone days* | *relics of a bygone era*

bygone² *n* **1** a bygone object or machine no longer in use **2** *let bygones be bygones infml* to forget and forgive past quarrels

By-graves /ˈbaɪɡreɪvz/, **Max** /mæks/ (1922–) an English singer and entertainer who used to appear in a television SERIES called *Singalongamax* and is popular esp. with older people in Britain

by-law /ˈbaɪləʊ/ *n* **1** *BrE* a special law or rule made not by a national government, but by a local council, a railway, etc. **2** *AmE* a rule made by an organization for governing its own affairs — see also extra information on page 568

by-line /ɪˌˈbaɪˌlaɪn/ *n* a line at the beginning of a newspaper or magazine article giving the writer's name

BYOB /ˌbɪː wəɪ əʊ ˈbɪː/ (used on a party invitation, encouraging someone to bring some drink to the party with them) Bring Your Own Bottle or Bring Your Own Booze

by-pass¹ /ˈbaɪpɑːs/ — *n* **1** a road that passes round the side of a town or other busy area: *Take the bypass to avoid the traffic in the town centre.* **2** *tech* an apparatus for sending a flow of gas, liquid, etc., round, instead of through, something else: *He's had heart bypass surgery.* (=directing blood through new blood tubes outside the heart)

bypass² *v* [T] to avoid, esp. by going round: *If we bypass the town we'll miss the rush hour traffic.* | *I bypassed the usual complaints procedure by writing directly to the owner of the company.*

by-play /ˈbaɪpleɪ/ *n* [U] action of less importance going on at the same time as the main action, esp. in a play

by-product /ɪˌˈbaɪˌprɒdʌkt/ *n* [(of)] **1** something additional that is produced during the making of something else: *Silver is often obtained as a by-product during the separation of lead from rock.* **2** an additional result, sometimes unexpected or unintended —compare END PRODUCT

Byrds /ˈbɜːdz/||ˈbɜːrdz/, **The** an American popular music group, successful in the 1960s

byre /baɪə/ *n* *BrE old-fash* a farm building for cattle; COWSHED

Byron /ˈbaɪərən/, **Lord** (1788–1824) an English writer of ROMANTIC and SATIRICAL poetry, best known for poems such as *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage* and *Don Juan*. He is also remembered for his romantic life which included many famous love affairs and for his death of fever in Greece while fighting against the Turks for Greek independence.

by-stand-er /ˈbaɪˌstændər/ *n* a person standing near, but not taking part in, what is happening; ONLOOKER: *The police asked some of the bystanders about the accident.* | *I wasn't involved in the fight — I'm just an innocent bystander.*

byte /baɪt/ *n* *tech* a unit of computer information equal to eight BITS³ —compare BIT³

by-way /ˈbaɪweɪ/ also **by-road** /ˈbaɪrəʊd/ — *n* a small road or path which is not much used or known: *the highways and byways of Britain* | (fig.) *the byways* (=less well-known parts) of *English literature*

by-word /ˈbaɪwɜːd/||ˈwɜːrd/ *n* [(for)] (the name of) a person, place, or thing that is regarded as representing some quality: *The dictator's name had become a byword for cruelty and injustice.*

by-zan-tine /baɪˈzæntaɪn, -tɪn, bɪ-||ˈbɪzəntɪn, -taɪn/ *adj fml*, often *derog* secret, indirect, and difficult to understand; very COMPLICATED: *the byzantine complexity of our tax laws*

By-zan-tine *adj* of or concerning the ancient city of Byzantium or the EMPIRE of which it was the centre. Constantine the Great was responsible for the establishment of the Byzantine empire, which is said to date from the setting up in 330 AD of the city of Constantinople, on the place where Byzantium had formerly stood: *Byzantine art|architecture|music*

By-zan-ti-um /bɪˈzæntɪəm, baɪ-||ˈzæntɪəm/ an ancient city, centre of the Byzantine Empire. The city was renamed **Constantinople** by Constantine the Great, and is now called **Istanbul**.